

RP's most wanted gambler nabbed in Las Vegas

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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BY M. UBAC,
C. AVENDAÑO
AND N. BORDADORA
IRONICALLY, au-
thorities caught up
with the man who has
admitted to being a
professional gambler
in the last place he
should have been.
It was the numbers
game that did in
Charlie "Atong" Ang
the second time around
when he was arrested
RP'S/A7



ANG: Luck runs out

27 die in Zambo fighting

No RP exec has seen Nur; KL clams up

BY DENNIS JAY C. SANTOS,
ALEXANDER M. YOUNG
AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

NO PHILIPPINE official has seen Nur Misuari after Malaysian police arrested him Saturday, fueling speculations that the Moro leader has been spirited out of Malaysia at the behest of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Jose Brillantes, Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia, said that all Malaysian authorities could tell the Philippine embassy was that Misuari was at "an undisclosed place in Sabah."

A Malaysian diplomatic source disclosed that the OIC, which brokered the 1996 peace accord between the Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), had urged Malaysia to hand over Misuari to another member country.

But the source, who asked not to be identified, said Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad turned down "the request."

Brillantes said Malaysian authorities were withholding information on Misuari's whereabouts for "security reasons."

"We've requested to find out his whereabouts but they're not ready to give us the information," he told the Inquirer on the phone. "I have no reason to doubt the official statement (of Malaysian authorities)," Brillantes said.

NO/A4

GMA on appeal by Burnhams: I beg for patience

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

WHILE President Macapagal-Arroyo "begged for patience," the general in charge of the rescue of the hostages vowed the military would "get them out" but that his troops had to move slowly not to risk their lives.

They were responding to the tearful appeal of the American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham to help negotiate for their release as soon as possible.

"Have mercy," was Gracia's heart-wrenching cry during an interview on Sunday with Arlyn dela Cruz of cable TV Net 25.

The video, which aired Monday, showed the Burnhams surrounded by heavily-armed Abu Sayyaf guerrillas in the jungles of Basilan. With Martin in handcuffs, the couple talked of illness, fear of gunfire, death, of pining for their children and of loving each other.

GMA/A4



TRAPPED Misuari loyalists use at least 80 hostages to shield them from military attack as they leave their compound in Cabatangan, Zamboanga City to regroup 6 km away with their comrades in Pasonanca. (More pictures on Page A20) CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Haydee enters coco fund fray

GMA kin accused of trying to cut P20-B deal

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA
AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

THE COUNTRY'S chief hidden-wealth hunter and the government's top lawyer asked the Senate yesterday to pass a law confirming the P130-billion coconut levy fund as public in character—on the same day that a group accused the President's husband and her brother of angling for a P20-billion commission for settling the issue.

Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, and Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo told sena-

tors a legislative confirmation would strengthen the government's case against Marcos crony Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and his business associates.

In 1996, the Supreme Court ruled that the funds were imbued with public interest, but Yorac said yesterday the PCGG was now fighting the battle on several fronts, including Congress, the Sandiganbayan, the presidency and public opinion.

In a general meeting in San Juan, however, the People's Consultative Assembly tagged First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo and the President's brother Diosdado "Bobby" Macapagal Jr., together with Presi-

dential Assistant on Special Concerns Norberto Gonzales, as the ones allegedly negotiating a sweetheart deal with Cojuangco, in exchange for a P20-billion commission.

"We will present our witness during a Senate inquiry on the matter," PCA secretary general Linda Montayre said in a news briefing. This witness is likely to be retired Brig. Gen. Virgilio David, who served as administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority during the Ramos administration.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao took no notice of
HAYDEE/A6



GETTY IMAGES

OVER THERE

American soldiers are now fighting on the ground. Here they are behind a barricade during an explosion before fighting with Taliban forces on Tuesday at the fortress near Mazar-e-Sharif in northern Afghanistan. (Story on Page A11)

Telecom scam: It's Marcelo's word vs GMA's

BY CARLITO PABLO AND CYNTHIA D. BALANA

THE TELECOM clearinghouse controversy has boiled down to this: It's one man's word against that of the President—and practically all others.

The arrest drama that played out Monday night at the Senate has also been reduced to two opposing views, drawn according to party line.

The President's accuser, businessman Pacifico Marcelo III, was yesterday disowned by his own business associates, who accused him of trying to "discredit the present administration" so he could "get concessions" from the government.

And in the Senate, opposition senators bewailed Senate President Franklin Drilon's decision not to offer Marcelo protective custody, after agents tried for the second time on Monday to force Marcelo to undergo questioning at the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation.

Opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta said she was prompted to offer Marcelo "temporary custody" when BID agents confronted the businessman at the Senate parking lot at about 9 p.m. on Monday.

But administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said Marcelo was not under the Senate's custody precisely because the opposition's proposal to grant him protective custody was
TELECOM/A6

Misuari's rebels still holding 81 hostages

BY THE PDI
MINDANAO BUREAU

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Nur Misuari's followers, trapped in a hilltop office complex of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) here, clashed yesterday with government forces and later used a hundred hostages as human shields.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan told reporters in Manila that 25 of Misuari's followers, a soldier and a civilian were killed.

But the city police chief, Supt. Mario Yanga, said only two followers of Misuari were killed during the initial firefight.

Yanga said five civilians were reported killed and 24 others, wounded.

The gunmen fired mortars and machine guns from the Cabatangan Complex where they had been holed up since last week, after a failed revolt by Misuari in nearby Jolo left more than 100 people dead.

Military helicopters and OV-10 Bronco planes bombed the 96-hectare complex as early as 4:10 a.m.

At least two battalions of Army soldiers and 400 policemen were sent to the area to flush out renegade members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

The rebels broke out with 81 hostages, including women and children, and marched on the road toward Pasonanca village 6 km away to rejoin a group led by Hadji Julhambrie Misuari, nephew of the suspended ARMM Governor Misuari and caretaker of the ARMM property in Cabatangan.

27 DIE/A20



Nippy weather from Luzon to Mindanao

BY THE PDI BUREAUS

THE NIPPY air is everywhere.

From Luzon to Mindanao, Filipinos are enjoying the cold weather blown from Siberia by northeasterly winds.

It was extremely cold in Mt. Apo in Davao, with the temperature estimated to be as low as 5.3 degrees Celsius.

In Baguio City, temperature dropped to 9.6 degrees

NIPPY/A7



Second FRONT PAGE

Namfrel: Stop ARMM poll count

BY PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

CLAIMING evidence of massive frauds, an election watchdog has asked the Commission on Elections to stop the canvassing of votes cast during Monday's elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"There were fabricated and pre-filled ballots, and teachers were manipulated to change the names entered in the election returns," Fr. Eliseo Mercado Jr., chair of the National Movement for Free Elections in the ARMM, said.

The Comelec yesterday gave assurance that the proclamation of winning candidates will not be hampered by the escalating post-election violence in key areas in the region.

Mercado said Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo should order the suspension of canvassing in the whole region and start investigating the irregularities.

He told the Cotabato City-based Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp. that Namfrel volunteers have documented the anomalies.

Independent gubernatorial candidate Ebrahim Paglas III said his lawyers were preparing charges against government officials who allegedly participated in rigging the results of the elections.

Paglas said affidavits of teachers who walked out

from polling precincts in at least four villages of Datu Odin Sinsuat town would be used in filing the charges against the officials.

Earlier, the teachers said they discovered that ballots were already filled up with the names of administration candidates before the actual balloting started.

In Lanao del Sur, Commissioner Ressureccion Borra said attempts to rig the results in Pualas town were also discovered.

Borra said at least 31 pre-filled election returns were now in his custody.

He also said the missing ballots and election returns from Lumbatan town were already found, but these were already filled up although no actual voting took place.

The Namfrel in Lanao del Sur also noted discrepancies in the total number of votes gathered by the candidates compared with the number of those who actually cast their ballots.

In Bubong and Poona Bayabao towns, the total number of votes for administration gubernatorial candidate, Dr. Parok Hussin, and Paglas was 10,083 or 673 votes more than the number of those who voted.

Rep. Benasing Macarambon, chair of the House committee on suffrage and electoral reforms in the ARMM, said some towns and barangays in Lanao del Sur did not have any elections.

"Mayors functioned as the Comelec and the military in these towns. They assumed total power in the areas," he said.

He said there were even reports that mayors themselves were the ones directing the voters what to write in the ballots.

But he declined to identify the candidates who gained from the mayors' directives.

Comelec officials in Manila said the canvassing and transportation of certificates of canvass (COCs) were "going on as scheduled" and that there would not be no any significant delay in the proclamation.

The winners will be officially announced before Dec. 1 as scheduled even as the Comelec admitted that the COCs from the provinces of Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, and Marawi City did not arrive yesterday as expected due to bad weather and security concerns.

In Maguindanao, the provincial board of canvassers convened at 8:30 a.m. yesterday at the Regional Legislative Assembly Building in Cotabato City.

Canvassing in Basilan and Lanao del Sur simultaneously started at 1 p.m. amid heavy deployment of soldiers and policemen.

In Sulu, the board of canvassers would start their work early today, according to reports. Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase, Grace C. Albasin, Butch D. Enerio and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Blanche S. Rivera in Manila



A VOTER searches for his name in the list outside the Tabiran Elementary School in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao. RYAN LIM

2 long Christmas weekends approved

MALACANANG yesterday approved two four-day weekends next month to let Filipinos enjoy the Christmas holidays with their families.

The Palace declared Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 as non-working holidays.

Dec. 24, which falls on a Monday, is sandwiched between the weekend of Dec. 22 and 23, and Christmas Day, Dec. 25, a regular holiday.

Dec. 31 is also sandwiched between Rizal Day on Dec. 30 and New Year's Day on Jan. 1. Both are regular holidays.

Malacañang, however, dropped its original plan for an 11-day holiday from Christmas until New Year's Day after some sectors warned it would disrupt business.

Instead, Malacañang declared as "optional holiday" the working days of Dec. 26, 27 and 28, which fall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Government agencies and private firms were given the option to allow their employees to go on vacation on these dates if this would not disrupt work.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said government and private workers had the option to file a leave of absence as long as they have remaining leave credits.

Or, they could work longer hours before or after the start of the two four-day weekends so they could go on vacation on Dec. 26, 27, and 28.

However, he said, workers in key government offices could be required to work with pay during these days to maintain the normal flow of government operations.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier pushed for an 11-day holiday to boost domestic tourism in the face of the slack in foreign tourists following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. Dona Pazzibugan

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No RP exec has seen Nur; KL clams up

(From page A1)

The Malaysian source said OIC-member countries sympathetic to the outgoing governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) had wanted Misuari transferred to the Middle East.

Asked which country Misuari would be sent to, the source said "any country he wishes to go to and seek asylum from."

Among the 56-member OIC, only Libya and Malaysia have ceased to recognize Misuari as representative of the Bangsamoro people after he led a revolt in Sulu that left more than 100 dead.

Saudi or Dubai

The source said Misuari could be seeking asylum in Saudi Arabia and Dubai.

Despite having been booted out by his top lieutenants from the chairmanship of the MNLF, Saudi Arabia continues to look up to Misuari as the rightful head of the erstwhile rebel group.

The source in the Malaysian diplomatic community said it would be wrong for Malaysia to accede to the request because Misuari broke several laws in Malaysia.

He said Mahathir told OIC representatives that releasing Misuari could become "a very delicate situation as it might sour Philippine-Malaysian relationship."

The source clarified that the OIC was not pressuring his country.

But even as Malaysia was steadfast in its decision not to hand over Misuari to the OIC, his supporters were optimistic that the OIC would prevail over Malaysia.

Mohammad Nur Ajihil, a top



MILF commander asks a soldier to back off to give the rebels safe passage.

Misuari aide, said the OIC pressure on Malaysia showed that Misuari still enjoyed the support of most of the member-countries of the OIC.

Out of harm's way

"He's doing fine, out of harm's way," Ajihil said.

Ajihil also laughed off reports that Malaysia was bent on extraditing Misuari after serving his jail term.

Misuari's spokesperson Abdulrahman Jamasali said the OIC decision to take Misuari into custody was a "welcome development" because it showed that the OIC remained supportive of the ousted MNLF founding chair.

Another Misuari supporter said "the Philippine government shall now suffer the consequences of ignoring the OIC."

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, admitted that Misuari still had a strong

following in Mindanao and the global Muslim community, even within the OIC.

"We can do nothing about his arrest. But hopefully this could be settled soon. He's still our brother," Kabalu said.

Deport Misuari

In the House of Representatives, the chair of the committee on foreign affairs urged Malacañang not to dilly-dally in seeking the deportation of Misuari from Malaysia.

Rep. J. Apolinario Lozada Jr. (Negros Occidental, Lakas) warned the government that Misuari could easily seek political asylum in other countries to evade prosecution for rebellion and other crimes he committed in the Philippines.

Lozada also said the government might send the "wrong signal" that it was afraid of Misuari if it refused to work out his immediate deportation to Manila.

"Malacañang has repeatedly said that Misuari is not a security threat," Lozada said in a statement.

"If, indeed he is not, there is no reason for the Palace to dilly-dally in giving the green light on the Muslim leader's deportation," Lozada said.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez yesterday confirmed that Malacañang wanted Misuari to be prosecuted first in Malaysia before he could be turned over to the Philippines to face rebellion charges.

Misuari was charged with rebellion for ordering his men to attack the military headquarters in Jolo, Sulu.

Golez said Misuari would find Malaysian laws "tougher" than Philippine laws.

"Right now the position of the government is the laws in Malaysia are tougher. So it's better for him to face a tougher situation."

"If he is linked to the Sipadan kidnapping, I think Misuari is in deep trouble in Malaysia," Golez said.

Misuari may be charged with violating Malaysia's Internal Security Law for his alleged involvement in the Abu Sayyaf's kidnapping of 21 tourists and workers from the Malaysian resort of Sipadan in April last year.

Under Philippine laws, rebellion is punishable by life imprisonment.

Asked whether Misuari was facing the death penalty in Malaysia, Golez said he did not know the penalty for violating the Internal Security Act.

"We are giving Malaysia enough leeway to prosecute Misuari. We feel the Internal Security Act, if applied to him, is going to be a tougher law. And the situation in Malaysia is tougher for Misuari. So we like it that way," he said.

"After they're through with him, then we'd like him back here to face Philippine justice," Golez said. With reports from Juliet Javellana and Dona Pazzibugan

RP, US hold naval surveillance exercise

THE PHILIPPINES and the United States began yesterday a four-day, small-scale naval exercise meant to enhance maritime surveillance cooperation.

The exercise is being held off southwestern Palawan in the Sulu Sea, where Muslim extremist guerrillas seized three Americans and 17 Filipinos from an island resort in May, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The statement, however, said the exercise was routine and "has nothing to do" with an ongoing military operation against the extremist Abu Sayyaf group, which has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, or the military action in Afghanistan.

It said Exercise Marsurvet 02-1 is the last of four maritime surveillance exercises this year. It involves four Philippine naval vessels, special forces personnel and an Air Force surveillance aircraft. The US participants include only the crew of a P-3 Orion maritime surveillance plane that is part of the US Seventh Fleet based in Okinawa, Japan.

Elmer Cato, spokesperson for the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement that oversees joint Philippines-US exercises, said the operation includes interception of "hostile watercraft"

entering Philippine waters with assistance from a US plane.

Cato also said another exercise involving Philippine special operations forces and US Navy SEALs, scheduled to start Tuesday, has been postponed to Dec. 22. He said he was not immediately told the reason for the delay.

The United States has expressed strong support for the Philippines and promised military aid for the country's fight against the Abu Sayyaf, which has been included on a US list of terrorist organizations worldwide.

After seizing the hostages from the Dos Palmas Resort off Palawan, the guerrillas brought their captives to their stronghold in Basilan province by speedboat.

Most of the resort hostages and more than 30 more seized later on Basilan have been released or escaped, but some have been killed, including Guillermo Sobero of Corona, California. Still in guerrilla hands are missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham of Wichita, Kansas, and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap.

A massive rescue operation involving 7,000 government soldiers, briefly observed by US military officers last month, is under way on Basilan.

AP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, November 28, 2001
34th Week In Ordinary Time

1st Reading:

Gospel:

Jesus said to his disciples, "People will lay their hands on you and persecute you; you will be delivered to the Jewish courts and put in prison, and for my sake you will be brought before kings and governors. This will be your opportunity to bear witness."

So keep this in mind: do not worry in advance about what to answer, for I will give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

You will be betrayed even by parents, and brothers, by relatives and friends, and some of you will be put to death. But even though you are hated by all for my name's sake, not a hair of your head will perish. Through perseverance you will possess your own selves."

Commentary

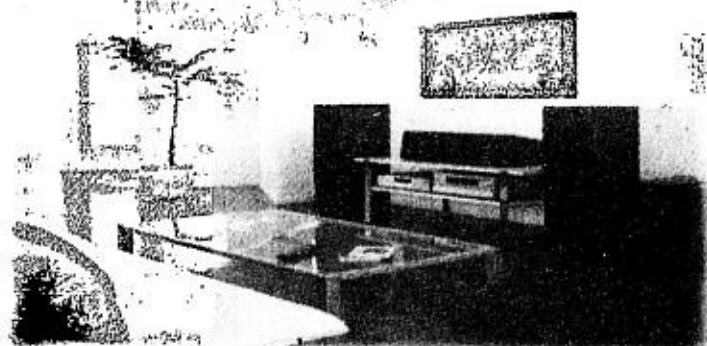
The community of faith is following a suffering Master. Suffering is also part of its life. The unbelieving world crucifies Jesus and puts him to death because of its fear of the loss of power. In every generation, this is the pattern. The fear of unbelief persecutes believers. The unbelieving world has fear and hatred for Christians. The destiny of the Master is also the lot of his followers. So, don't be afraid of hatred because of your Christian faith. It is a sign of your close identification with Jesus and his cross. There is no Christianity without the cross. The cross will always be with us if we are true. But Jesus promises that he will never abandon us.

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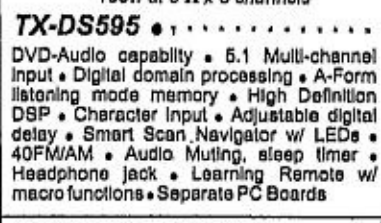


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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS)—Habeas corpus—Habeas corpus is a writ directed to a person detaining another, commanding the former to produce the body of the latter at a designated time and place. Section 1, Rule 102 of the Rules of Court provides that "the writ of habeas corpus shall extend to all cases of illegal confinement or detention by which any person is deprived of his liberty, or by which the rightful custody of any person is withheld from the person entitled thereto." The objective of the writ is to determine whether the confinement or detention is valid or lawful. If it is, the writ cannot be issued. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, Tung v. Rodriguez, G.R. No. 141938, April 2, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

GMA on appeal...

(From page A1)

"Emotional," the National Security Adviser Roilo Golez described the interview and discouraged further media interviews of the hostages until they were rescued.

Golez said such emotional appeals from the hostage would not help the situation.

The interview was emotional as well as a harsh commentary on the military rescue operations.

Martin Burnham was quoted as saying he was not satisfied with the military rescue efforts. "We know that the Philippine government is doing everything to rescue us. I don't want to sound disrespectful, but it's not working."

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Southern Command, who is overseeing 7,000 soldiers involved in the rescue operations, countered that the number of hostages was down to three (the

Burnhams and a Filipina nurse) from scores of captives the Abu Sayyaf abducted from the Dos Palmas Resort on May 27 and from other towns in Basilan.

"We understand their feelings," Cimatu said yesterday. "We'll get them out as soon as possible. But the military is working slowly because we don't want to risk their lives."

Tone down

"When we look at a hostage situation we should look at it in a very objective way, and appeals like that..." Golez said, trailing off.

"That's why it's better to tone down media coverage of hostage victims because what we expect from hostage victims when given access to media is to be very emotional. If we handle a hostage situation in a very emotional way, that's very dangerous. We can miscalculate and commit a lot of mistakes."

President happy

But presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said that the President was happy "that at least the couple are relatively still in good health. She's saddened about their plight."

"She assures them our troops are everyday inching towards pinpointing where they are and rescuing them. We're just begging for their patience. Everything is being done. The military is doing its job."

He said the Abu Sayyaf agreed to the interview since De la Cruz had had "long, long links" with the group.

The Macapagal administration early this year launched a full-blast offensive against the Abu Sayyaf, which the United States considers to be a terrorist group with links to Osama bin Laden.

The AFP has said that the Abu Sayyaf has been decimated by the offensive and only about 100 bandits have survived by constantly running away instead of engaging troops on Basilan.

The government said it would not deal with the Abu Sayyaf except for the "unconditional" release of the hostages.

As part of its campaign against global terrorism, the United States is donating night-vision goggles, choppers and guns to the Armed Forces of the Philippines to help fight the terrorists in their backyard. With a report from AP

HYPERTENSION and the KIDNEY

AN EMERGING PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

Kids pay heavy price for rebellion

IF the Moro rebellion and faltering economy are the headlines, teenager Clene Ann Cinco is the fine print.

The Abu Sayyaf gunmen who live near her hometown Basilan let her go earlier this year after they decided they would not get any ransom for her.

Work on her island in Mindanao dried up because of the decades-old Moro rebellion, so her father found a job in Brunei, cut off contact, and left too little money for her to go to school.

Fifteen-year-old Clene Ann sold the mobile phone her mother had left her when she died and bought a ticket on a four-day boat ride to Manila, hoping to find work as a salesgirl. "I imagined paradise," she said, laughing and rubbing her eyes. "I imagined lots of actors and actresses like on TV."

The recruiter who met her at Manila's North Harbor locked her up in his house and said he had found her a job dancing in a bar instead.

She escaped the recruiter with P100 in her pocket and slept in the port for two nights before security guards took her to a shelter for runaway children.

Social workers say Clene Ann is far from unusual. The young children are paying an increasingly heavy price for grinding poverty, political instability and the exodus from the rural areas in search of higher wages.

Getting younger

Thousands of children like her—some as young as 9—are pouring from the Philippine provinces into Manila's grubby, teeming port in search of work every year.

"It seems like heaven here in Manila and that's what the recruiters tell them," said Lillian Malig-on, a social worker at the halfway house where Clene Ann now lives.

Aid workers say the children flooding into Manila are getting ever younger as those above

legal age search for more lucrative work overseas—on Saudi Arabian oil rigs or in Hong Kong raising other people's children.

Government data say as many as a tenth of the country's 76 million people work abroad. But most are jobs arranged through formal recruiting systems.

Domestically, there are fewer checks and parents often leave their children in the care of agents on the periphery of the law.

Family members see a dearth of options at home and hope domestic work for a nice family in the city might be better than a job in fields.

Agents also cruise through Manila, picking up children as they get off huge passenger ferries that sail between the country's 7,000 islands. Some escort groups of children on the sea voyage.

Training

Malig-on and other social workers have trained security guards and staff on the ferries to identify children who look like they're in transit for work and to tell them about their 24-bed shelter in the port.

Runaway child laborers can stay there until they are entrusted to the care of an adult family member. Social workers help them get in touch with their families and to ask for government aid to buy tickets home. Some children have stayed at the shelter for months.

The lucky ones run away from recruiting agents like Clene Ann did, Malig-on said. Some of them owe so much money to their employers or recruiters in advance pay that they can't leave.

Fourteen-year-old Florivel, also from Mindanao, ran away from her employer en route to Manila after she found out her work as a babysitter would involve moonlighting in the drugs trade.

Jess, 12, moved to Manila with his mother

and seven siblings in search of work three years ago.

He sold hot bread by the roadside before he went to school every day to help supplement the family income.

"Life is hard in Manila," Jess said. "Our income was just enough for food, not for transport. In the province we could eat more. We had pigs and goats. My grandparents helped us too."

His mother and siblings went back to Mindanao earlier in the year after struggling to make ends meet, but Jess got separated from them in the crowds at the port and was left behind.

Saying how many

children recruiters bring to Manila for work each year is next to impossible because few people are willing to admit they're involved when surveys are taken.

Rising number

"We (see) a rising number of reports. We suspect there's also a rising number of victims," said Frans Roselaers, director of the ILO's child trafficking program, on a recent visit to Manila.

A law barring children under 15 from working without their parents' consent is the only legal tool available, social workers say. And because many child laborers work as domes-

tic helpers, they are difficult for labor officials to locate.

Encouraging children not to work can also be unrealistic if they are paying school fees or supporting their families.

"You can't say 'stop working and go to school,'" said Roland Pacis, a social worker at the shelter.

He says social workers focus instead on helping children make informed choices about work and school, but often encourage them to go home if possible.

The government admits that it is a stubborn problem.

"We are aware that we cannot totally elimi-

nate it perhaps in this lifetime," Labor Undersecretary Jose Español said.

"But we are committed that this problem will not increase." *Reuters*

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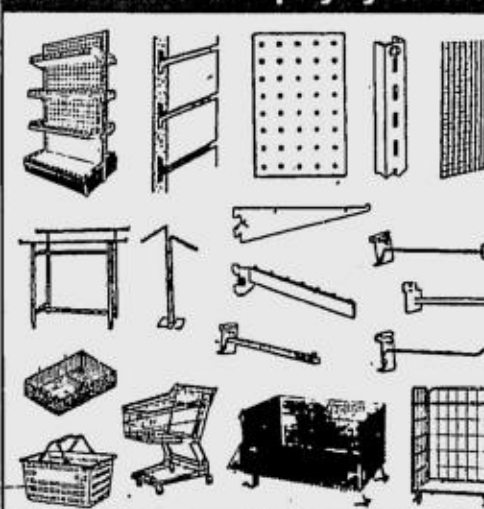
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EFFECTIVE CUSTOMER RELATIONS & HANDLING COMPLAINTS	December 8, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL	December 8, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS	Dec. 15, 2001-Jan. 27, 2002	Saturday	1:00PM-4:00PM
SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING	December 10-21, 2001	M-W-F	6:00PM-8:00PM
BUSINESS LETTERS AND REPORT WRITING	December 10-21, 2001	M-W-F	6:00PM-8:00PM
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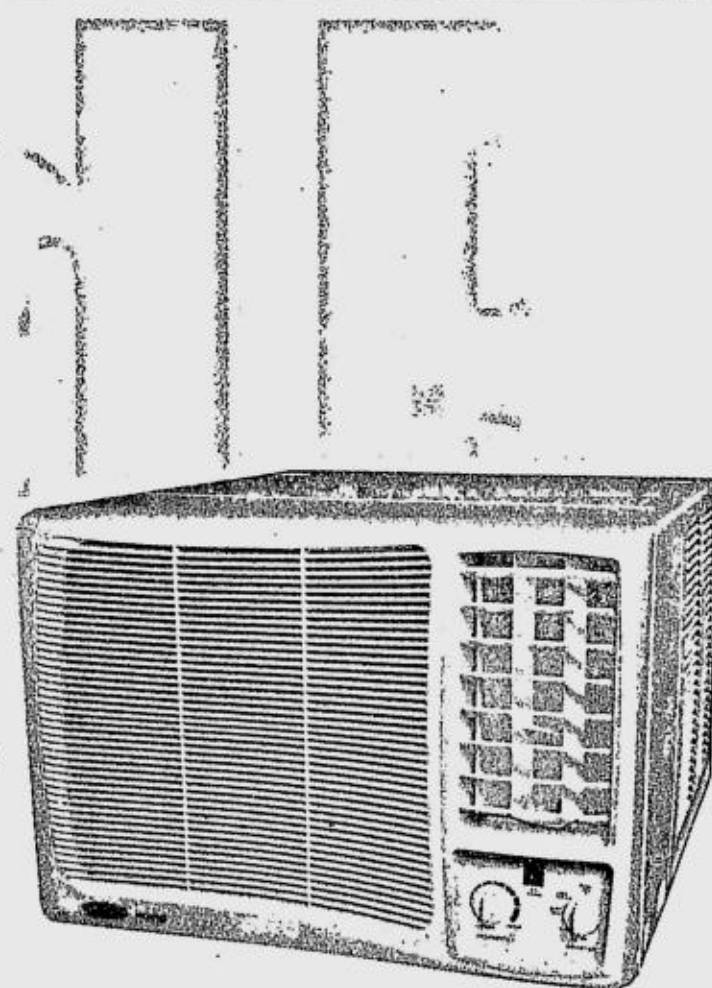
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Haydee enters coco fund fray

(From page A1)

Montayre's latest anti-Macapagal allegation against the President.

"This is only Linda Montayre speaking. We've repeatedly asked her before if her statements are supported by the PCA," Tiglao said.

Resist bribes

Militant farmers warned President Macapagal-Arroyo against meddling in the levy funds issue and urged coconut farmers to resist bribe offers meant to buy their silence on the alleged sweetheart deal.

"Any kind of compromise with Cojuangco is highly unacceptable to coconut farmers, because he does not have the right to negotiate on the farmers' behalf. The P130 billion fund was plundered from the people behind the plow," said Rafael Mariano of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

Rodolfo Sambajon, chair of the peasant group Pamalakanya, challenged opposition Senators Panfilo Lacson, Luisa Ejercito Estrada, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Gregorio Honasan, Vicente Sotto III and Blas Ople to investigate the alleged deal between Macapagal and Cojuangco, their "political benefactor."

"We know this is a tough test for them since they would go against their beloved Danding, the country's political kingpin who supported them for decades as politicians and government officials," Sambajon said.

He added: "The pro-Erap senators"

deafening silence on the alleged deal between Ms Macapagal and their big boss is understandable since they cannot go against Danding. Whether they admit it or not, this is the gist of the story behind the scene."

At the Senate, Yorac said that Congress should enact a law confirming the public character of the funds as collected pursuant to a law and seven successive presidential decrees. All the PDs were issued by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Yorac stressed that the levy was imposed pursuant to the state's power of taxation and collected ostensibly for a public purpose—to support an industry vital to the national economy.

But in the 10 years that the levy was imposed, Yorac said, the fund was not used primarily for the benefit of the millions of small coconut farmers. Instead, this was used by some of those assigned by Marcos to invest in their private businesses.

Solicitor General Marcelo disclosed that during the Estrada administration, the government assigned only two lawyers to prosecute the cases against Cojuangco and his men.

"Right now, we already assigned 10 to 12 lawyers to handle these cases but it seems that the Cojuangco side is delaying the trial because they know that we are now ready," he added.

Edsa 2

Montayre said the negotiation allegedly took place "a few days after Edsa 2."

"With the clearance from the President obtained through the First Gentleman and First Brother," Gonzales reportedly approached Cojuangco "regarding the disposition of the coco levy funds," Montayre said.

A negotiated settlement following the direction of (Executive Order No. 313) of deposed President Estrada was proposed and agreed upon, whereby about P57 billion will be allocated to the farmers after paying the creditors," she said.

Estrada's EO 313 declared the levy as "private funds" and authorized the use of its proceeds to pay creditors—an order that favored Cojuangco's interests. This same EO was suspended by President Macapagal a few days after she assumed the presidency.

Montayre aired doubts whether the farmers could really get something from the deal, since "no public audit (of the funds) has been authorized" and it is likely that the "farmers may end up with nothing since the whole amount may end up being paid to the creditors."

The PCA suspects these "creditors or stockholders" to be all "dummies of Cojuangco."

In the sweetheart deal, Montayre said, the balance of the funds would go to Cojuangco, "with P20 billion going to the President for her use in (the) 2004 presidential elections."

As a result of the supposed agreement, she said, Gonzales and Efrén Villaseñor, a former leader of a farm-

ing group and now PCA board member, were reportedly talking to different farmers groups to "convince or persuade them to agree to a compromise agreement."

They are also reportedly convincing farmers to agree to an out-of-court settlement of the coco levy case pending in the Supreme Court.

She alleged that farmers' groups were being offered billions to drop their objections to the deal and the out-of-court settlement.

Two farmers' group leaders reportedly promised a billion each were Omi Royndoyan of the Philippine Peasant Institute and Joey Faustino.

But Royndoyan told the INQUIRER the idea was "ridiculous." He strongly denied Montayre's imputation.

At the joint hearing of the Senate blue ribbon committee and the committee on food and agriculture, PCCG Associate Commissioner Ruben Carranza emphasized that the funds were public in character—that was why it was called a levy.

"Only the government can impose a levy or tax. How can the private sector or private businessmen impose a levy? That is extortion," Carranza said.

The KMP's Mariano said Macapagal should be careful in handling the coco levy issue.

"The coco levy fund issue could unseat a President, like Macapagal-Arroyo who is becoming isolated," Mariano said. *With reports from Gerald Lacuarta and Carlito Pablo*

Thai cops arrest 6 Filipinos for duping Japanese

BANGKOK, Thailand—Thai police said Tuesday they have arrested six Filipinos for allegedly luring Japanese tourists to gamble in their house and cheating them out of millions of baht (thousand of dollars).

The gang members—three men and three women—were arrested Monday from a house in Bangkok where they lived, police Lt. Gen. Chat Kuldilok told reporters.

"The largest amount these people made so far was 9 million baht (\$204,545) from the same old trick," he said.

He said the women pretended to be Thai housewives and invited their victims, whom they met on the street, to come to their house to teach them Japanese.

"When the victims agreed... it turned out they were always persuaded to play blackjack instead," Chat said.

He said the male members of the gang pretended to be millionaires from Brunei who lost huge sums to each other to avoid suspicion, Chat said.

When the Japanese participated in the game, they were invariably cheated by the card players, Chat said without giving

details.

He said the gang was exposed when an undercover policeman saw a Japanese man—accompanied by the women—walking out of the house to withdraw money from a cash machine. He later told police that he had lost 45,000 baht (\$1,022) already.

Chat identified the Filipinos as Elidio Dungan Lapina, 52, Jose Sambo Grepald, 35, Eric Sandro Reyes Menina, 43, Arlene Manual Balanial, 38, Victoria Dungan Hormillosa, 43, and Betty Cano Gerilla, 24.

He said the tourist police had received numerous complaints in the past months from Japanese tourists about losing money in card games to a group of people. Police had been keeping a watch on the six Filipinos for a while, Chat said.

Thailand has become a regional hub for transnational crimes in recent years ranging from big-time crimes such as human and drug trafficking from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, prostitution and mafia from Russia and Eastern Europe, counterfeit notes and passport scams from Africa. *AP*

Telecom scam...

(From page A1)

not approved by Drilon.

In fact, Arroyo said, the blue ribbon committee should have made the recommendation, because it was conducting the investigation where Marcelo was a key witness.

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said it was unfortunate that Drilon did not heed his request to place Marcelo under the Senate's custody, the businessman having voluntarily appeared as a key witness.

Pimentel said Drilon might have had his own reasons but added that the Senate President should have considered the threats to Marcelo's security.

"Remember that Mr. Marcelo did not want to go with the BI agents because they did not have a warrant of arrest. It was only an invitation, which he can refuse," Pimentel said.

Business partners

In separate sworn statements, three of Marcelo's business partners denied that Malacañang had tried to take over Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. The three partners—Guillermo Yanza, incorporator and president of PCCI; Voltaire Alcantara, director and chief operating officer; and Dante Madriaga, director and chief technical officer—also denied the P40-million bribe allegedly offered to First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

In his 12-page affidavit submitted to the Senate blue ribbon committee on Monday, Marcelo had also denied that bribery had actually taken place.

In a joint press statement, all three said they had opted to keep quiet at first because they were prevailed upon by Marcelo not to issue any public statement.

They denied Marcelo's statement that he discussed the 51-percent share allegedly being demanded by the President with the PCCI board of directors, which then rejected the proposal.

"This is utterly false. There was never any such proposal, much less a discussion thereof," their statement read.

"We are simple businessmen. Like everyone else, we would like to make a living. It pains us that somebody like Marcelo who we initially trusted has lost all sense of fair play and fair dealing."

The three businessmen said they were not aware of the meeting between the President and Marcelo and that they were not privy to the details of that meeting.

Temporary custody

Oreta said she offered Marcelo "temporary custody" upon the suggestion of Brig. Gen. Leonardo Lopez, the Senate sergeant-at-arms. Lopez explained to Oreta that it was Drilon who had ordered him to bring Marcelo out of the Senate premises.

When she decided to invite Marcelo to her house for coffee, Oreta said at a news briefing yesterday, a BID agent then tried to enter her car. She protested, and instead allowed Lopez to join them.

"The repeated attempts by the BI to spirit away Mr. Marcelo while inside the Senate premises showed sheer disrespect for the chamber as an institution," Oreta said.

"It was the height of sycophancy on the part of the BI leadership to flaunt its contempt of the Senate just so these officials could worm their way into the good graces of Malacañang," she added.

Oreta said she came to Marcelo's rescue because she felt that his safety and rights had to be protected.

"If we do not act fast and protect the rights of people who want to testify before the Senate, how can we encourage

more witnesses to help uncover the truth in our inquiries?" Oreta asked.

"Who else will come forward to testify on anything if our citizens feel that the Senate is inutile and cannot protect them within its premises?" she continued.

On reports that the Immigration Bureau was planning to file charges against her for obstruction of justice, Oreta said she was just doing her job as a senator and had merely acceded to the request of the sergeant-at-arms.

Meanwhile, Sen. Arroyo said yesterday that Marcelo "dug his own grave" with the affidavit he submitted to the Senate.

The blue ribbon chair noted that Marcelo did not state his real nationality and that he admitted to owning 80-85 percent of telecommunications firms. If he is proven to be an American national, Arroyo said, then Marcelo could be guilty of perjury.

For his part, Sen. Edgardo Angara vented his ire on BID Deputy Commissioner Orlando Dizon, whose position in government, he said, was "legally infirm."

Angara said Dizon got his appointment as the third commissioner of the bureau via a "legal short-cut."

Not unexpected

In a statement, Marcelo said his partners' turnaround was "unfortunate although not unexpected."

"I am personally hurt by this treacherous act but (I am) trying very hard to understand their actuation considering the harassment I myself am going through," Marcelo said.

He said that Madriaga, Alcantara and Yanza were not only minority stockholders in PCCI but were also his employees in another company.

"I gave them stakes in a promising enterprise on top of gainful employment in (PCCI)," he said.

But Marcelo said the three were now peddling "lies" and conniving with "economic predators" to eventually control his clearinghouse brainchild.

"I also know they are not beyond selfish interests and are conniving with some parties waiting in the wings to devour (me) once I am completely annihilated by (this) government intent in destroying entrepreneurial spirit," Marcelo said.

Sources close to Marcelo said that the three owned a total of 7 percent of PCCI.

"On paper they are still minority stockholders because PCCI remains as a business entity although it has not been allowed to operate because of the presidential veto," a source said.

Rep. Prospero Pichay, who filed an impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo last year, came to her defense yesterday.

Pichay said he found Marcelo's accusations illogical.

"I find it difficult to believe that the president will ask 51 percent considering that the corporation has no asset. It has not started its operations yet," Pichay told reporters.

"I think these are all fabricated lies by Marcelo only to get back at the President because she vetoed the bill," he added.

Perfecto Yasay, former Securities and Exchange Commission chair and key witness in the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada, said Marcelo should be given the chance to tell all.

From experience, he said, he knew that "it takes a really determined individual to stand up to a sitting president." But personally, Yasay added, he thought the President sincere and a dedicated leader and would not allow the "errors of the past to be repeated." *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

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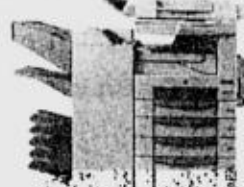
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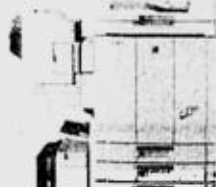
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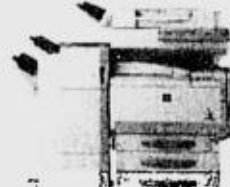
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RP's most wanted gambler arrested

(From page A1)

by agents of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) at 3 a.m. Sunday (Sunday, 8 p.m. Manila time) at the Paris Hotel Casino in Las Vegas, America's gambling capital.

Ang is now in the custody of the US Marshal Service and kept in a detention facility in Las Vegas.

In a meeting with Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. in Los Angeles in July, Ang said that he would fight his extradition "on the grounds of human rights."

He denied then that he was in hiding and claimed to be "openly transacting business in California," according to Pimentel. He was reportedly planning to put up a shopping mall in California.

Ang fled the country more than 10 months ago following the collapse in January of the administration of his longtime gambling buddy and business associate, Joseph Estrada. He escaped reportedly with Yolanda Ricaforte, Estrada's alleged "jueteng" auditor.

Ang and Ricaforte are now co-accused with Estrada in the plunder case before the Sandiganbayan third division.

Ang was arrested on the basis of a Philippine government request for his extradition, according to Victoriano Lecaros, spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The Philippines and the United States forged an extradition treaty in 1996.

GMA elated

Aside from being the subject of extradition, Ang has also violated US immigration laws as he is an undocumented alien, according to Lecaros. The DFA cancelled his passport shortly after he sneaked out of the country.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the DFA to immediately complete the paperwork for Ang's extradition.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Ms Macapagal was elated over Ang's arrest and hinted that the United States acted on a tip from the Philippine government.

The INQUIRER learned that the Macapagal administration had allegedly sent overtures to Ang to turn state witness against Estrada but that he refused twice.

Blue Christmas

But it may take time before Ang is returned here to face plunder charges. The Chinese-Filipino businessman's extradition hearing is still scheduled on Feb. 28, 2002. So, it will be a blue Christmas and a bleak New Year for Ang as he will have to stay in jail until his hearing next year. His lawyer's petition for bail was denied.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said that Ang was arraigned yesterday before the US District Federal Court in Las Vegas.

"The gap between the arrest and the preliminary hearing is long. So, it means that Ang will be spending Christmas and New Year in jail in the

US," Perez said.

When asked how long the extradition procedure would last, Perez said, "It depends on the skill of Ang's lawyer. He could prolong it."

As consultant of Paeogo, Ang was the skillful architect of the controversial Bingo-2 ball game which was supposed to replace the illegal numbers game of jueteng but which instead was one of the reasons behind the downfall of Estrada.

Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson blew the whistle on Estrada after he accused Ang of attempting to dislodge him in the "jueteng" operations in his province by operating the Bingo-2 Ball.

US federal authorities informed the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles, California, about Ang's arrest. Perez said he received a one-page report from the Philippine Consul General in Los Angeles.

Lecaros said he had yet to get the full details on the circumstances of Ang's arrest.

Perez said the FBI was now tracking Ricaforte.

"It's only a matter of time before the FBI arrests her," said Perez, who disclosed that his office had already requested for Ricaforte's extradition to the country.

Good news for Ombudsman

"It's good news for the administration of justice and we extend our gratitude to the US government for cooperating with us in dispensing justice," Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said.

He added that with Ang's arrest, the Sandiganbayan trial could proceed at full speed. "With Atong Ang around, the principal actors in the plunder case are now accounted for," he said.

Aside from Ang, Ricaforte and Estrada, the other accused in the plunder complaint are Estrada's son Jinggoy Estrada, lawyer Edward Serapio, businessman Jaime Dichaves, Delia Rajas, Alma Alfaro and Eleuterio Tan.

Desierto said Ang was charged principally for collecting jueteng money and depositing it in the bank accounts of Estrada.

He was also the one who brought the P130 million in excise taxes to the house of Estrada on Polk Street, San Juan, in 1999.

Dichaves, who fled at the height of the aborted impeachment trial, was Estrada's bagman, according to Desierto.

"He fronted for Mr. Estrada in most of the illegitimate transactions, using the Office of the President," said Desierto.

Perez said his office could not ask the US justice department to extradite Dichaves, who is also reportedly in the United States, since the Sandiganbayan had yet to issue a warrant for his arrest.

"We will immediately file an extradition request once the warrant is out," he said. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*



JOAN BONDOL
GAMBLERS Atong Ang and Chavit Singson: Turning on each other



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The November average oil price rollback balance due from the oil companies is 77 centavos after deducting 74 centavos - the total of three price reductions*.

Issue No. 1: The oil companies have withheld the oil price rollback because they were waiting for the result of the OPEC meeting on November 17th that will possibly cut production by more than 1.5 million barrels per day.

Our response: The price rollback of 77 centavos must be given now because the OPEC countries have not yet come to an agreement.

In fact, the average price of Dubai crude as of November 26th is \$17.68 or \$1.95 lower than last October's price of \$19.63 while the peso depreciated by only 23 centavos.

With only 4 days left before the end of the month, we project another price rollback of 60 centavos on the 21st of December.

However, in the event that Dubai crude prices go up in December, we can, then, postpone the 60 centavos rollback in December to cushion a possible increase in January.

Issue No. 2: One of the oil companies agreed with the Consumer & Oil Price Watch computation of the oil price reduction in November but commented that we failed to consider three factors:

1. The increase in insurance premium by as much as 30% to 50% after the September 11th terrorist attack.

Our response: How much has the insurance premium increased on the shipment of crude oil from the Middle East converted on a per liter basis.

2. The increase in freight costs after the U.S. attacks.

Our response: What is the basis of the increase in freight costs, considering that fuel costs have gone down and there is greater competition in the shipping industry because of the drop in cargo shipments due to the global recession.

3. The possible increase in dealer's margin.

Our response: An increase of dealer's margin may have to be tempered in the context that the margins of the gas stations have increased with the introduction of convenience stores and mini restaurant complexes.

* November average oil price rollback due from oil companies

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Nippy weather from Luzon to Mindanao

(From page A1)

Celsius on Sunday night, the fifth coldest in the summer capital in the last 40 years.

Like their Baguio counterparts, residents in Tagaytay City in Cavite were huddled in their sweaters and jackets amid the 17 degrees Celsius temperature.

At the Pagasa Science Garden in Quezon City, temperature dropped to 18.5 degrees Celsius on Sunday and Monday.

And weather forecasters are saying that colder weather is yet to come—particularly in the last week of December to the second week of January.

"Based on climatology, there is a possibility that the days ahead will be colder," said Herman Ngohayon of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Siberian air mass

According to Aila Bayaca, Pagasa forecaster, it was not as cold in the Visayas and most parts of Mindanao because they were farther from the source of the cold continental air mass from Siberia. She said the cold north-easterly winds have already blended with the warm air from the Pacific Ocean by the time these reach southern Philippines.

But the temperature in these areas was still lower than usual—about 4 degrees below the usual.

The coldest points in Mindanao are the mountainous areas such as the Mt. Apo National Park, Baguio District in Davao City and Mt. Kitanglad in Bukidnon province.

"The Mt. Apo area will still top the list since it is the most elevated part of the country," said Pagasa chief meteorological officer Gerry Pedrico.

Beer weather

In Tagaytay, cold weather means more beer sales, according to a market porter.

Mardy Tan, a resident of Barangay Tolentino, said the higher than average temperatures usually start in October and last until February.

"We're all used to it. Even the small children," Tan said.

Lucy Padilla, another resident in the barangay, said the cold season brings good business to the migrant ukay-ukay second-

hand clothes peddlers in the city market.

She pointed out that it was cheaper to buy sweaters, jackets and turtle necks from the ukay-ukay vendors than from the city malls.

"Stateside pa."

Bed weather.

In the land of ukay-ukay, Baguio City, Sunday's 9.6 degree Celsius temperature was a drastic drop from the 11.4 degrees recorded the previous days.

But the massive cutting of trees in the city would make it difficult to beat the record low registered in the mountain resort city on Jan. 18, 1961, when the temperature went down to 6.3 degrees Celsius.

Among the lowest recorded temperatures in Baguio were: 6.7 degrees (Feb. 1, 1963), 7.4 degrees (March 1, 1962), 7.8 degrees (Jan. 24, 1993), and 10 degrees (April 1, 1923 and Feb. 4, 1999).

The "bed weather" may be good for tourists and honeymooners, but not for the vegetable farmers in Benguet.

Damaged crops

Agriculturist Dionisio Bello said they received reports that frost had damaged several hectares of vegetable farm in the towns of Kibungan and Buguias. He said they are still verifying the extent of damage to carrots, cabbage and potatoes.

"It was only (on Monday) morning that the weather had become very, very cold," he said.

In December 1997, P2 million worth of potato, carrot and sweet pea crops was damaged due to frost in Barangay Madaymen in Kibungan.

Dr. Ben Ladilad of the Highland Agricultural Research and Development Consortium (Harrdec) said Benguet farmers were expected to incur losses in their earnings because of the biting cold.

"It makes it difficult for highland farmers to produce their own carrot seeds. They don't have any choice but to import seeds," he said.

Ladilad said the unusual climatic condition would cause the elongation of stems and the discoloration of carrot products. *Reports from Gerald Lacuarta in Manila; Gobeth Moulie, Frank Cimat and Jovelyn Reyes PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Joselle Badilla PDI Mindanao Bureau; Delfin Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

OPINION

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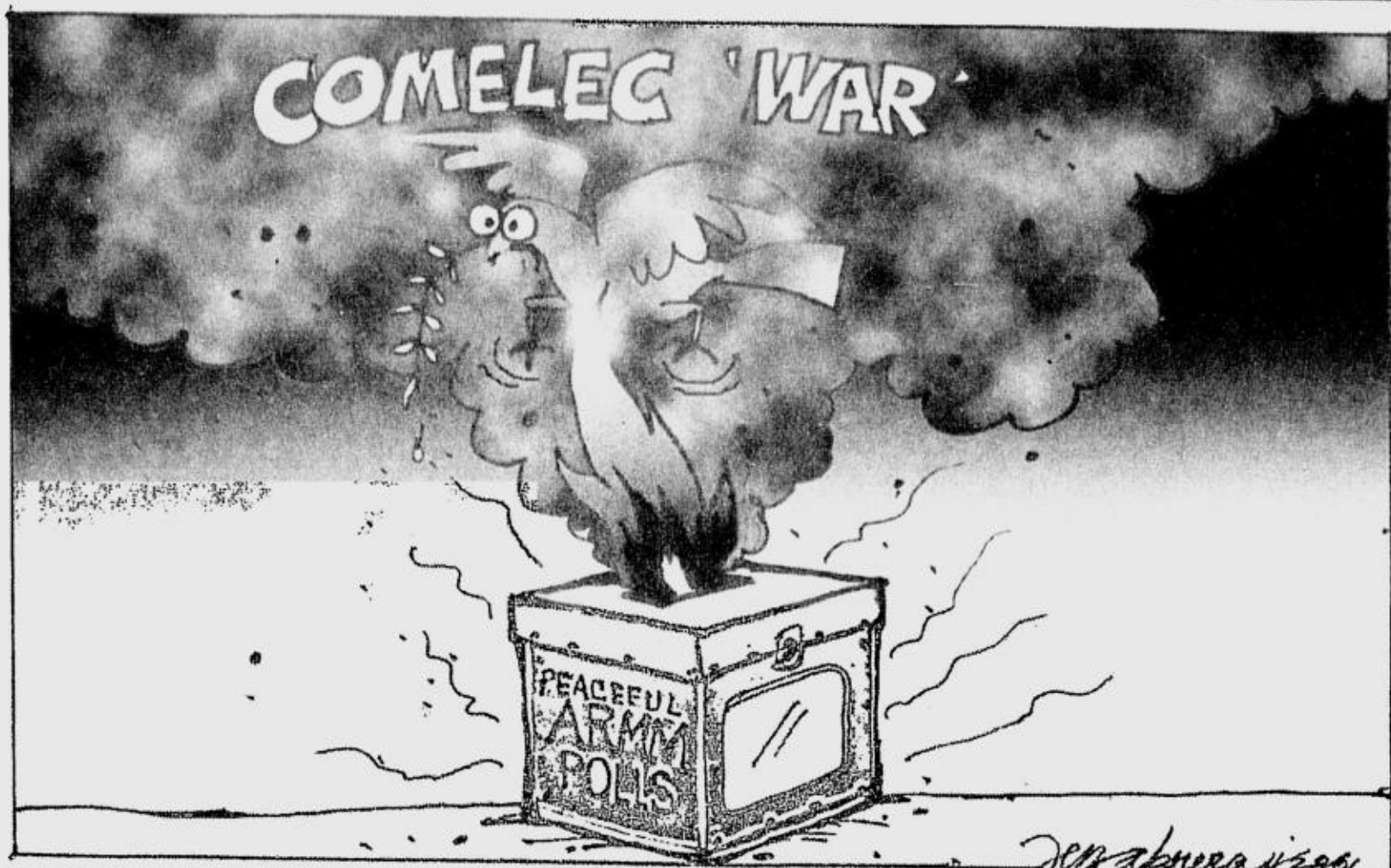
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Too hot to handle

FIRST the government sent troops, tanks and planes to crush the uprising he had unleashed. Then it organized a team to hunt him down. At the same time, it canceled his passport and requested friendly neighboring countries to block his escape and arrest him on sight. But now that it has Nur Misuari boxed up, the government seems loath to touch him.

EDITORIAL

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier ordered Misuari arrested for inciting some 600 armed followers to rise up against the government. The founder of the separatist Moro National Liberation Front, which signed a peace agreement with the government in 1996, was trying to ignite a new rebellion to prevent the holding of elections that would see him relinquishing the governorship of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. After losing more than 100 men in the first few days of battle last week and with government troops in hot pursuit of his forces, Misuari fled from Jolo and tried to slip quietly into Malaysia early Saturday morning with six of his men. Malaysian authorities arrested them on Jampiras, the island closest to Malaysia's border with the Philippines.

Earlier Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad slammed the door on the possibility of giving asylum to Misuari, saying, "This is an internal matter of the Philippines, and Malaysia should not interfere by providing refuge to rebels from other countries." After Misuari's capture, Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Abar announced that the renegade ARMM governor and his men would be sent back to the Philippines "to face due process of law." A top Malaysian police official said Misuari would be turned over to the Philippine government "as soon as possible."

Filipino officials, at first, seemed eager to have Misuari back. Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Manila would be holding talks with Kuala Lumpur regarding Misuari's deportation. Malaysian officials also had a similar impression, with Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi saying, "The Philippine government wants him." He added that it may not be necessary to charge Misuari "since we are going to send him back."

On Sunday, however, Ms Macapagal said she wanted Malaysia to have first crack at meting out punishment to Misuari. "I will be very comfortable if Malaysia deals with him first," she said. "Personally, I want him to stay in a Malaysian jail."

Other Filipino officials echoed Ms Macapagal's wish, and tried to lay the basis for Malaysia to hang on to Misuari. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, for instance, said Malaysia would be trying Misuari since he posed a threat to its own security. On other hand, Tiglao said Malaysia was investigating Misuari's possible involvement in the Sipadan raid and hostage-taking mounted by the Abu Sayyaf last year.

Why does the President want Malaysia to hold on to Misuari and put him on trial? Is she saying she has little trust and confidence in the Philippine justice system? Does she believe there is a better chance of securing Misuari's conviction before Malaysian courts than before Philippine courts?

Last time we looked, no visa was required for travel within Asean among the citizens of member countries. So how can Misuari be charged with illegal entry? And even if he violated its immigration laws, Malaysia could always say it would treat Misuari like any other illegal alien and send him back to his country of origin.

Granted Misuari has violated Malaysian laws, the far more serious crimes he has committed happened in the Philippines. To mention the more recent ones, there is the uprising he has instigated which has already left close to 200 people dead, including the 27 killed in yesterday's clashes in Zamboanga City. There are the billions of pesos in development funds for which he has failed to account as ARMM governor. And there is the fallout from his recent misadventure which can only worsen an already bad economic situation.

For all of these crimes, Misuari should be made to answer. So why is the government reluctant to get him back from Malaysia so that he can be charged, tried and punished in accordance with Philippine laws?

Now there are reports that the Organization of Islamic Conference is pressing Malaysia to let Misuari go. If Malaysia caves in, Misuari will again be free to direct his ugly little war from afar and solicit funds or get his hands on money he could have stolen from the government during his disgraceful five-year tenure as ARMM governor to finance his war.

If for this reason alone, the administration should hurry to get Misuari back and lock him up where he can do little mischief. Or could this be the reason the administration finds Misuari too hot to handle?

Why was the GMA-Marcelo meeting so private?

AS this column reported last Friday, Nov. 23, businessman Pacifico Marcelo repeated in an affidavit submitted to the Senate that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo asked for majority control of his telecommunications companies in exchange for franchises. Malacañang had of course denied his allegations. The two had haggled in a one-on-one meeting in Malacañang on the evening of Aug. 18, 2001. It is one's word against the other. There are no witnesses, no evidence on what was said during that meeting—unless either one of them had secretly taped their conversation, although the tape would not be admissible as evidence in a formal hearing.

But the interesting question is why the President of the Philippines had Marcelo called to tell him to go to Malacañang, had him fetched from a fastfood outlet in Makati and taken to the Palace, and met with him there without any secretary or aide with her. Obviously, she wanted their conversation to be very private. Why?

What did they talk about? They did not talk about the weather, or the ARMM elections, or Nur Misuari's stupid caper. According to Marcelo, the President wanted him to execute an affidavit clearing her husband Mike of any involvement in the attempted P50 million bribery to have her recall her veto of two franchise bills for Marcelo's two companies. In exchange, Marcelo wanted an assurance that when he refiles his franchise bills and are passed by Congress, the President would not veto them again.

It was at this time that the President, Marcelo said, told him that "we should have majority control" of his companies. The telecom clearinghouse is expected to earn \$1.1 billion a year (that's in US dollars) or P52.5 billion!

Malacañang said that when Ms Macapagal said "we should have majority control or interest," she meant "we, the government," not "we, a private group." It is up to you to believe that or not.

But that still does not answer the question

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



why the President chose to talk to Marcelo alone, and even called him and had him fetched by a Palace vehicle. Marcelo did not go to Malacañang to ask for an audience with the President. No, he was invited by the President to Malacañang, fetched from a Makati fastfood outlet and escorted through a Palace backdoor to a private room where he was made to wait for the President. Obviously, his host did not want him seen going to and inside the Palace. Why the cloak-and-dagger stuff?

Marcelo said the President wanted him to clear Mike. Why does that have to be secret? And why is that so important? The Senate is already investigating the bribery charge against Mike. If he is innocent, the investigation will show that. No need for the cloak-and-dagger stuff. If it is only to clear Mike, that is, Malou Nunez has already cleared him. Did she clear him after another similar meeting?

But was the meeting with Marcelo only to ask him to clear Mike? Or was there some other subject to talk about, a subject so sensitive and so embarrassing that the conversation had to be very private? Hence, the cloak-and-dagger stuff. If so, what could that subject have been?

Another interesting question is why the President vetoed the approved franchise bills for Marcelo's two companies—the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. and the APC Wireless Network Inc.—but at the same time approved two other similarly worded franchise

bills, House Bill 8887, in favor of Connectivity Unlimited Resource, and HB 12370 for Solid Broadband Corp.? What is the difference between the two groups besides their names? The policy of this administration is for liberalization and competition. The President could have signed into law all four identical bills to provide competition and prevent a monopoly. The government opened the telecommunications sector to other companies to stop the PLDT monopoly. So why were two franchises approved and two identical franchises vetoed? What are their differences? Answer: The owners. So who are the lucky owners of the two companies whose franchises have been approved? What did they do to win the prize?

Still another interesting question (I ask too many questions). Why did agents of the Bureau of Immigration try to arrest Marcelo as he was about to submit his affidavit and testify before the Senate? Couldn't they have waited until the Senate was through with him? Or was the arrest attempt precisely to prevent him from testifying?

Opposition senators prevented the arrest. The Senate chief of security was told to take custody of Marcelo to prevent the BID agents from taking him with them. Marcelo was safe while he was within the Senate premises. So why did the Senate President, after the session adjourned, order the security chief to make Marcelo go away? The BID agents were waiting for him outside. In fact, they were trying to force him to go with them when Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta chanced upon them and decided to take Marcelo home with her to protect him.

The BID claimed they were not arresting Marcelo, only "inviting him" to go with them to their offices. We thought all along that when you "invite" somebody, he is free to accept or refuse the invitation. But in the BID's dictionary, "invite" is synonymous with "force."

Negotiations, 101

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



the Filipinos fought valiantly, often sacrificing their lives to protect their American superiors who were being hunted down by the Japanese. The price the country paid for it was such that Franklin Roosevelt was moved to vow solemnly to indemnify Filipinos to the last carabao.

We have not tried to get the US government to live up to that vow. We have merely tried to get it to give moral and financial recognition to the Filipino veterans for being the loyal subjects that they were. Why should we now go into great contortions to show our undying friendship, even trying to resurrect Bataan symbolically or physically in this day and age, just to get that?

It's pretty much the same thing with the American promise to help the Philippines any way it can in its campaign against the Abu Sayyaf if Ms Macapagal should ask for it. Asked in a morning show what benefits Ms Macapagal's contemplated logistical agreement with the United States would bring this country, Roilo Golez said it would bring closer cooperation between the Philippines and the United States, particularly in pursuing their fight against terrorism.

But, pray, isn't that what the Mutual Defense Treaty is all about? Doesn't that treaty call on the United States and the Philippines to instantly fly to each other's side whenever one or the other meets with a threat to life and limb? Isn't that supposed to be a binding commitment, enshrined in nothing less than a treaty? The Abu Sayyaf has been there for years, and made international headlines last year by kidnapping a group of foreigners. But until the group kidnapped Americans themselves, the United States did not particularly feel compelled to aid the Philippine gov-

ernment in routing them. Why do we need another agreement just for that?

The point is, why do we need to do extra work just to get the things we already bargained for? Or, figuratively speaking, why do we need to work overtime just to get our regular pay? Probably more importantly, what is the assurance we will get the things we've bargained for this time?

There is one other thing that is due us, which Ms Macapagal never raised with George Bush, and which should raise the most serious questions about the worth of the things she is bringing back home. That was raised in a letter to the editor last weekend by Allen Hubbard, who identifies himself as an American who has worked extensively on environmental justice and a relative of Harold Clark, after whom the Clark Airbase was named. That is the toxic wastes in the former bases. In the Cabcom evacuation site alone in Clark Airbase, at least 80 people have already died from drinking water contaminated by those wastes.

Hubbard himself argues eloquently for his cause: "In our country, we have the Cerdia, which defines a superfund site and makes the responsible party contribute its fair share toward cleaning it up. In the case of military installations, the sole responsible party is the US government. But our government even refused to pay for a site assessment of Clark, so the Philippine government had to go to the World Bank for a loan. We have been asking, 'Why do they hate us?' It may be because smaller nations view us as hypocrites who apply different standards in different parts of the world."

The toxic wastes are to be found abundantly in Subic and the other former American bases as well. Experts estimate the cost of cleaning up those bases at billions of dollars. How many deaths will it take to get that?

The former Clark Airbase is at the heart of Pampanga, Ms Macapagal's very own home province. I do not see that her *kababayan*s there will be greatly elated by the PX goods she is bringing home from America in time for Christmas.

End game for Misuari

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



THE ARREST of Nur Misuari in Malaysia puts an ironic touch to the end of his career as a leader of the Muslim separatist movement in southern Philippines. Misuari was arrested in Sabah after he fled Jolo following a failed rebellion by his faction of the Moro National Liberation Front in a bid to postpone the election for officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

A testimony to the eclipse of Misuari is that in the 1970s, during which his MNLF staged a rebellion against the Marcos martial law regime, Sabah, with the tolerance of Malaysia, was the sanctuary of the Moro rebels and the funnel through which arms were shipped to them in Mindanao. Also Sabah was once ruled by the Sultanate of Sulu until the British took possession of what became British North Borneo through a controversial deal with the sultanate through which it was supposed to have "ceded" the territory to the British East India Co. The territory was transferred to Malaysia after it was granted independence by Britain in the 1960s.

Tens of thousands of Filipinos live in Sabah, which is only a few hours by speed boat from Jolo, who consider Sabah a part of their homeland. Since Spanish times, trade has flourished between the Sulu archipelago and Sabah and movement of traders between them was relatively easy and unrestricted. It is therefore a measure of Misuari's isolation that the government of Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad has arrested him and is considering the request of the Philippine government to hold him longer in Malaysia while it sorts out the election in ARMM and other Muslim insurgencies in Mindanao. Up until recently, it was inconceivable that fugitive Muslims seeking sanctuary in Malaysia would be arrested.

It is a sign of the improved relations between Malaysia and the Philippines, following the visit to Kuala Lumpur of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, which set the two nations on a mood of cooperation to curb cross-border piracy and hostage taking, as well as to resume closer economic relations in the development of the East Asia economic development zone linking the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

Misuari's rebellion last week has been crushed

by the Armed Forces. It was his last bid to reverse the slippage of power from his hands as a Muslim leader of consequence. Prior to the rebellion, Misuari had been ousted as chair of the MNLF by the Council of 15, a rival faction. The Council has fielded Dr. Farouk Hussin as governor of the ARMM, who is backed by the Macapagal administration. At its peak of more than 20,000 warriors, the MNLF fought the Marcos regime for more than 10 years until Misuari was persuaded by the Organization of Islamic Countries to moderate his separatist goal and accept an autonomous arrangement within the republic. This autonomous concept bore fruit, after arduous negotiations, in 1996 when the Ramos administration signed a peace agreement with the MNLF leading to the creation of the ARMM and to the takeover of its leadership by Misuari.

Misuari was co-opted into the ARMM which was envisaged to be the political structure that would govern the four predominantly Muslim provinces of Mindanao and through which economic development aid would be funneled from the central government to develop these provinces—this time under Muslim (Misuari's) leadership. Misuari's administration was marred by charges that the economic aid worth P4.8 billion was dissipated and Misuari had nothing to show in benefits for the region during his governorship.

The failure of Misuari to use this assistance to improve the living conditions and the economy of the ARMM, the poorest in the country, eroded Muslim confidence in this experiment and fanned the rise of the Islamic fundamentalist movement led by the Muslim Islamic Liberation Front. The MILF grabbed from Misuari the torch of separatism. By the 1990s, the MILF was in the forefront of rebellion, which had a brief spell of calming down during the peace negotiations with the

Ramos administration but which resumed into war following President Estrada's all-out war on the MILF.

Misuari brought about his own downfall. He spent more time outside of the ARMM, traveling overseas or in Manila where he surrounded himself with a retinue reminiscent of the royal court of the Sulu sultanate and of the pomp and circumstance of the datus of Mindanao. Misuari sprang from a poor family but he received an excellent education at the University of the Philippines. But power intoxicated him to imitate the pomp of the Muslim aristocracy. He was a good warrior but a poor administrator. Many Islamic states had promised to lavish aid to the ARMM, but aid did not flow to the region after Misuari failed to show he could use it to develop the region.

Prime Minister Mahathir was one of those Islamic leaders disenchanted with Misuari. He said, "Autonomy has been accorded but unfortunately, when in power, they did not use their power for the development of southern Philippines...Not much has been done for the benefit of the people. So therefore, we no longer feel responsible to provide him with any assistance."

The flight of Misuari consolidates the MILF's leadership of the Muslim separatist/autonomy movement. MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said Misuari was "stupid" in fleeing to Malaysia when he knew Mahathir was hostile to him. Even during the hostage taking by the Abu Sayyaf, Misuari had been marginalized. Efforts to make him a mediator on the release of hostages from Sipadan failed because the Abu Sayyaf spurned his mediation.

The Abu Sayyaf rejection was a bitter pill for Misuari. The Abu Sayyaf and the MNLF are based in Jolo, home of the warrior Tausogs. Both have the same ethnic base and the center of the rebellion in the 1970s. The ascendancy of the MILF, whose main support comes from the Magindanaos of central Mindanao, meant the shifting of the center of gravity of the Islamic rebellion from the Tausog heartland of Misuari. He now is not only a fugitive of Philippine justice (he faces a rebellion charge); he belongs to the past.

Need for a DV law now

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



"VIOLENCE against women is not a 'women's issue,' but one that concerns us all—especially men," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said last Sunday, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. "Indeed, men must work to confront what should be described as men's violence against women and recognize and respect the equal role and rights of women. When it comes to violence against women, there are no grounds for tolerance and no tolerable excuses."

The world community has long recognized the need to address the social cancer that is violence against women, but it seems Philippine laws have yet to catch up with the realities all around us.

Much as it may seem unseemly to use the death of Maria Teresa Carlson as a jump-off point for a lobby campaign for anti-domestic violence legislation, it's undeniable that her story illustrates vividly the shortcomings of the available responses for women in her situation.

She was not exactly unknown, and because of this had access to the media and to groups willing to help her. She had chances to go public with her story, but authorities proved unable, if not unwilling, to cross her powerful husband who, aside from being a government official, also had a reputation for violence. If Maria Teresa could not be helped, what of women of humbler station?

SO HOW about it, women legislators? A consolidated bill on domestic violence has already been filed, the product of years of legislative processes. Though it did not make it out of committee, the bill should facilitate the legislative debate and wrangling involved in the passage of a law.

Fortunately, the caucus of women legislators, headed by Rep. Cynthia Villar, has made the passage of a law on domestic violence a top priority, and even House leaders, led by Speaker Joe de Venecia, have indicated willingness to speed up the passage of such a law.

In the Senate, the Committee on Women is headed by Sen. Loi Estrada, a move that has been met by, at best, muted dismay by women's groups. But this is Senadora Loi's chance to do right by the country's suffering women, with whom, I

think, she shares many travails and trials in common.

Women (and men) legislators don't have to start from scratch, beyond finding the heart to recognize the severity of the problem and the urgent need to act now.

ABOUT a week ago, I wrote here that unless the women of Afghanistan are given a voice in the shaping of their country's post-Taliban future, then they would be no better off than they were under the iron hand of "the bearded ones."

Well, guess what? At the ongoing Afghan political conference in Bonn, organized by the United Nations and German diplomats, representatives of several Afghan factions are trying to "hammer out plans...to form a truly representative and broad-based government." And yet many Afghans, writes Keith Richburg of the Washington Post from Kabul, are chafing at the restrictive invitation list. It includes only the Northern Alliance, a delegation representing Afghanistan's former king, Mohammed Zahir Shah, and two other groups involved in political talks in the past.

"In all, just 30 Afghans will meet to begin mapping out the country's future," writes Richburg. The most grievous oversight of all is that all 30 participants in the talks are men. Even if, because of the large number of men killed in two decades of war, women make up about 60 percent of Afghanistan's 26 million people.

This is a development Afghan women refuse to accept, even from beneath their voluminous burqa. Jamila Mujahed, the radio broadcaster who brought Afghans the news about the routing of the Taliban from Kabul, has been speaking out to press for the inclusion of professional women like herself in the talks.

"No one has experienced such brutality against women anywhere in the world as what happened in Afghanistan. I want to go and tell everyone the things that happened to me and my colleagues these past five years," says Mujahed.

Indeed, the world should heed the voices of Afghan women, because women's status in any country indicates the state of democracy and humane governance, says Noeleen Heyzer, executive director of the UN Development Fund for Women (Unifem).

"We failed to act meaningfully when Afghan girls were prohibited from going to school, when Afghan women doctors and teachers were prohibited from going to work, when women were beaten for what they wore," she said. "What happened in Afghanistan demonstrated that the way in which a country or community treats women and protects and promotes their human rights is one of the best early warning indicators of its respect for international norms and standards."

REPORTS out of Kabul are beginning to detail the specifics of the horrors visited upon Afghan women in those years of Taliban terror.

For instance, an article in the Los Angeles Times reports, Taliban edicts against men seeing women without their burqas prevented male doctors from seeing their patients and making informed diagnoses, often endangering the lives of the women.

Dr. Mohammed Hashem, director of the Malalai Maternity Hospital in Kabul, recounted that if, for example, medical tests indicated that a woman had a uterine tumor, a male doctor would not be allowed to conduct an internal exam. In addition, female doctors had to remain robed if a male doctor was assisting, prompting some doctors to lend instruction from outside of the operating room. Such regulations probably cost many women their lives, especially women who arrived with complications from childbirth, Hashem said.

Although some changes have been made since the Taliban retreated from Kabul, such as female doctors returning to hospital work, men are still not allowed in the local maternity ward, and many are afraid to stray from Taliban edicts or to speak out against the regime.

Remembering Bonifacio

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



settled there from around 1886-1892.

We know that Bonifacio was at the organizational meeting of the Liga Filipina headed by Jose Rizal. We also know that after it was made known that Rizal was exiled to Dapitan, Bonifacio and some friends established the Katipunan. Thus, Bonifacio was busy from mid-1892 and it seems he left his brothers and sister with a relative and began to live the life of an NPA or "No Permanent Address" from 1893 to the outbreak of the revolution in August 1896 when he becomes a fugitive, a wanted man.

From various sources we can piece together Bonifacio's wanderings beginning with an address on 11E Calle de Sagunto (now Santo Cristo), Binondo. He lived here in October 1893 or at least before he married Gregoria de Jesus in 1894. This dwelling was an *acesoria* big enough to accommodate Ladislav Diwa, Teodoro Plata and Aurelio Tolentino. It is probably safe to presume that some early Katipunan meetings were held here. The reason for a change of address was his marriage to Oryang in 1894 because we are told that the newly married couple spent a week in the home of their *ningong* Restituto Javier on Oroquieta. Unfortunately, we do not have a number for this house because the Katipunan marriage was celebrated here after the church wedding in Binondo.

Eventually the newlyweds found a place on Calle Anyahan in front of the *visita* de San Ignacio. When Oryang was with child they then moved temporarily to the De Jesus home on 13 Calle Baltazar (now Zamora), Caloocan. Andres

Bonifacio Jr. was born here. When "Junior" was stable enough to travel outside his *lolo's* house the Bonifacios moved to a house in Cervantes (now part of Rizal Avenue) in the San Ignacio district of Bambang. Santiago Alvarez described the house, *tabla ang palarindangan at pawid ang bubong, kainan ang laki bagamat mababa ang silong.* Alvarez even adds that Emilio Aguinaldo was initiated as a Katipunero in this house on the night of March 14, 1896. But then Aguinaldo, in his memoirs, says he was initiated in a house on Clavel Street in Binondo. This discrepancy alone will have nipping historians at each others' throat for years.

Adding to the already confused situation is yet another source stating that two months after the birth of Andres Jr., the Bonifacios moved to a house in Dulungbayan, Tutuban, which, according to Oryang burned down on Maundy Thursday 1896 at three in the afternoon. After this disaster they moved from house to house until they were given refuge at 57 Calle Lazarevas, the home of Pio Valenzuela, high-ranking member of the Katipunan and *ningong* of Andres Jr. who eventually died of measles in this house.

The last Bonifacio residence mentioned in the historical sources is actually somewhere on one long street today that used to be separate streets in the 19th century, Trozo—Calle Magdalena according to Oryang but 73 San Jose according to Pio Valenzuela. What appears to be a trivial and irrelevant list of unverified addresses says a lot about Bonifacio. Why was he moving from place to place? Was this to elude arrest? Maybe he could not settle the rent on time? Perhaps he was, contrary to popular belief, upwardly mobile? Bonifacio lived in about a dozen different places making him an NPA, a person with No Permanent Address.

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Kidnapping holds RP economy hostage

THE KIDNAPPING epidemic in the last 10 months is no longer just an embarrassing police problem for the government. It has become a grave threat to our democratic institutions.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is a sincere and highly educated leader. She has a firm grasp of economics. But much of her good intentions and economic policies are being negated by rampant kidnappings and other crimes which scare away foreign investors and tourists.

COMMENTARY

Wilson Y. Lee Flores

The kidnappers are similar to terrorists. They are the most dangerous economic saboteurs whose crimes threaten to impoverish our country. The American Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and other foreign business groups have recently expressed grave concern about the kidnapping crisis. The Asian Wall Street Journal on Nov. 14 published an obituary of the Philippine stock brokerage operations of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. after the Philippine Stock Exchange index fell 33 percent this year, becoming the worst performer in Asia. The Philippine Stock Exchange now has the shortest trading hours in Asia: only two and a half hours per day. HSBC was the 15th foreign stockbroker to wind down their operations this year.

A young tycoon told me the Philippines suffers a crisis in foreign investments, with more money going out of the country than the foreign investments coming in. Recently in Brunei, I met a highly paid Filipino engineer and I told him it was the foreign exchange remittances of Filipino workers overseas which were propping up the Philippine economy. I was surprised when he said he had already sent his family to Vancouver, Canada, and that he was sending his earnings there.

In recent weeks, I have been invited to several television and radio stations to discuss the kidnapping crisis. Essentially this was what I said:

First, the kidnapping epidemic is not only the concern of the business sector or of the ethnic Chinese minority, for it really victimizes the whole nation of 78 million people. Kidnapping is a heinous crime which holds hostage the Philippine economy, because it scares away foreign investors and tourists, aggravating unemployment and worsening mass poverty. Ford Motor Co. president Terry Enrick, who is also president of the American Chamber of Commerce, warned last Nov. 13: "It is important that the administration address this problem fast and effectively. Otherwise, the Philippines will continue to suffer the consequences of a kidnapped economy."

Without foreign investments, the Philippines has to keep on borrowing and adding to our huge foreign debt burden. Geographically our country is close to Taiwan and we both have a democratic system of government, but Taiwanese entrepreneurs avoid us like the plague on account of the kidnappings. In contrast, China which is still officially at war with the government in Taiwan, has \$80 billion in Taiwanese investments which helped create the numerous labor-intensive export industries that is modernizing that country. Even socialist Vietnam is attracting more foreign investors than the Philippines, and for the first time last year, Vietnam surpassed the Philippines in the number of tourist arrivals.

Second, it does not matter if soldiers, policemen, Indians, Singaporeans, Chinese, leftists or political saboteurs are behind the kidnappings. These are still a law and order problem happening under Philippine jurisdiction and they constitute a direct challenge to the country's law enforcement agencies.

Some officials have blamed foreigners, leftists and political saboteurs for the many kidnappings as if this would free them from responsibility for the breakdown in law and order. A Singaporean diplomat was shocked to hear a government official responding to Singaporean investors' questions by saying that "Singaporeans were kidnapping Singaporeans in the Philippines." To the general public and even to the international community, who the culprits are does not matter. What matters is that whoever they are, the government is able to arrest them and punish them.

Third, it is wrong to blame poverty for the kidnappings. The poor do not have high-powered firearms and logistics to commit the organized crime of kidnapping. On Ces Drilon's TV talk show, the grandchild of a prominent politician told me that poverty was the root cause of kidnapping as she recalled that she herself was kidnapped by poor people. I disagree. It is unfair to drag the hapless poor into this crisis. If the poor engage in criminal activities, these are usually petty crimes such as small-time robbery and snatching, not the organized crime of kidnapping which requires a lot of resources, manpower and organization.

Fourth, the stakes in the kidnapping crime should be raised by having an efficient criminal justice system and carrying out death sentences for convicted kidnappers. Kidnapping has become the fastest-growing cottage industry in the country, which has earned the dubious reputation of being "the kidnap capital of Asia." The Abu Sayyaf alone has earned an estimated \$20 million in ransom last year, mainly from European and Malaysian hostages.

The government cannot blame the victims for paying ransom. It is the duty of the government to punish criminals and prevent such crimes from happening. Convicted kidnappers have never been put to death in the Philippines although the law says that those who commit heinous crimes should suffer the death penalty. The government must send the message that kidnapping does not pay. It must put fear in the hearts of criminals by increasing the risks and imposing just punishment on those who commit serious crimes like kidnapping.

Fifth, the kidnapping crisis is symptomatic of the pervasive culture of corruption in the police and military organizations as well as some other agencies of government. The President announced recently that she would allow civilians to arm themselves, seek the help of foreign government and establish a system of reward to fight kidnapping and other crimes. These are all good for the country, but many are merely stop-gap measures.

Police Director Hermogenes Ebdane pointed out in a TV show that the police have been solving many crimes. These are positive developments, but these are just like plucking the leaves from a tree or breaking its branches. What is needed is for the government to strike at the roots of the kidnapping crisis, which is the culture of corruption in the police and military organizations.

(Can aspirin cure cancer? We need drastic and even painful cures now. Far-reaching reforms must be undertaken so that the honor of the police and soldiers will be restored. The judicial system should also be purged of corruption. A cleanup in government should be done so that our hardworking police and soldiers will not be demoralized by the bad example of political leaders. Corruption in the police, military and the whole government must be stopped to repair the country's damaged reputation among foreign investors and tourists.)

Corruption is the root cause of the kidnapping epidemic and other crimes which have destroyed our national economy and aggravated mass poverty. The kidnapping crisis is worse than the military coup rumors, for it is subverting our democratic institutions.

Wilson Y. Lee Flores is the author of five books and writes for *Yazhou Zhoukan*, the largest Chinese language magazine.

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LETTERS

Malacañang's apologist, Rigo-
berto Tiglao, has assigned baseless
and non-existent motives to my res-
ignation. He cowardly uses my al-
legedly unidentified critics to say
that I resigned because of my frus-
tration that the government has re-
fused to give 10 percent of the Mar-
cos loot recovered to my alleged cli-
ent, Reiner Jacobi. This is a reckless
statement. I am not and never have
been the lawyer for Jacobi. His law-
yers in the Philippines are Arno
Sanidad and Theodore Te (who sub-
stituted for lawyer Alex Padilla when
the latter joined the Department of
Interior and Local Government). As
to Jacobi's commission, Jacobi has
in his possession official document
dated 1988 on his contract with the
Presidential Commission on Good
Government, on a no-recovery-no-
pay-basis. So what is Tiglao talking
about?—FRANCISCO I. CHAVEZ
Chavez Laureta & Associates, 7th
Floor, Kalaw-Ledesma Condo-
minium, 117 Gamboa St., Legaspi-
Vill., Makati City

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Marines hit convoy near Kandahar

WITH US FORCES IN SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN—US Marines went into action in Afghanistan on Monday, attacking an enemy convoy after establishing a base from which to track Osama bin Laden and crush his Taliban protectors.

Some 500 US Marines, ferried in overnight by helicopter from a ship in the Arabian Sea, set up a bridgehead at a lonely air base in southern Afghanistan,

within striking distance of Kandahar, the militia's spiritual home and final redoubt.

Gen. James Mattis said the operation went smoothly.

"The New York school of ballet could not have orchestrated a more intricate movement more flawlessly," Mattis told reporters who accompanied the Marines to the air base on condition they did not reveal its precise location.

The United States launched its assault on Saudi-born militant Bin Laden's al-Qaida network and his Taliban protectors in response to Sept. 11 hijack attacks on New York and Washington, which killed around 3,900 people.

The Marines on the ground in Afghanistan called in Cobra attack helicopters to fire on a convoy of around 15 vehicles after it was seen heading toward their airstrip. Several vehicles were destroyed but the clash did not affect the US

buildup, with planes and helicopters arriving at regular intervals.

"In short order you'll have 1,000-plus Marines in the backyard of the Taliban," said Col. Peter Miller, chief of staff for Taskforce 58, which comprises nearly 9,000 Marines.

Local Afghans identified the captured facility as Dolangi airstrip, about 88 km southwest of Kandahar, rebuilt and used by Bin Laden. They said the personal helicopter of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar had been parked there only a few days ago.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld defined the purpose of the Marines on the ground in Afghanistan as "to establish a forward base of operations to help pressure the Taliban forces in Afghanistan, to prevent Taliban and al-Qaida terrorists from moving freely about the country."

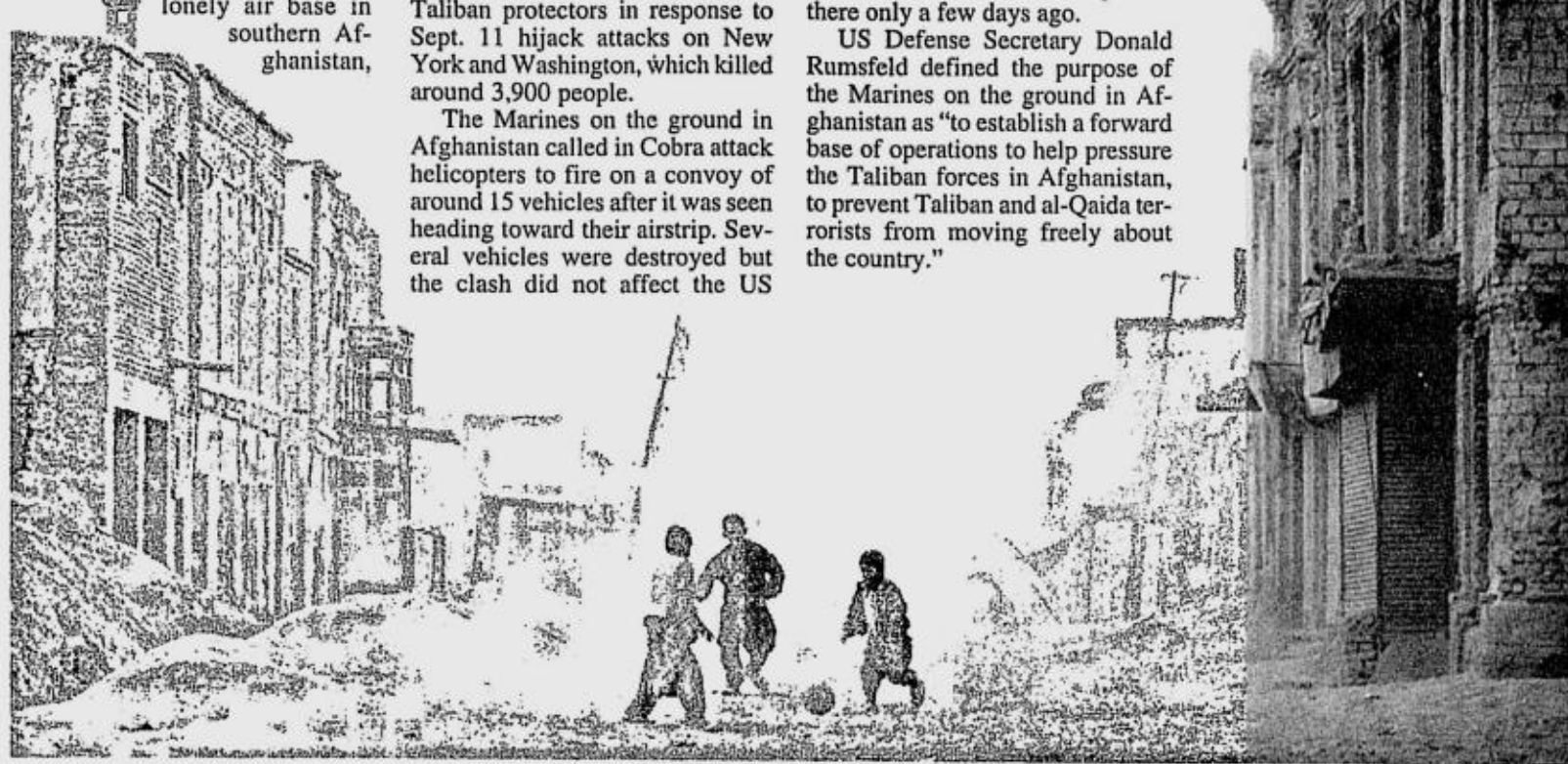
He said most Taliban strongholds had now fallen and their leaders were on the move and had difficulty managing their remaining military assets.

"We are pursuing them across the country from north to south and east to west and intend to continue

following them wherever they go," Rumsfeld said.

But the Islamic movement still remained defiant. "We have decided to fight US forces to our last breath," said a Taliban spokesperson.

US President George W. Bush hinted his war against terrorism could soon focus on Saddam Hussein, demanding the Iraqi leader allow international arms inspections to resume or face the consequences. *Reuters*



CHILDREN play in the old town of Kabul Nov. 26. More than 20 years of fighting has left much of the city in ruin. AP

Inter-Afghan talks begin in Germany

BONN—Historic talks between different Afghan factions opened near Bonn Tuesday at a United Nations-sponsored conference aimed at setting up a transitional government for the war-torn mountainous land to replace the defeated Taliban regime.

The conference, which opened with a keynote speech from German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, will also tackle the delicate question of setting up an international military force to maintain security in Afghanistan.

Fischer reminded the participants of their responsibilities and urged them to "seize this historic moment," saying that the international community was standing by to help them if they did.

"I urge you all to forge a truly historic compromise that holds out a better future for your torn country and its people," he said.

The German minister also stressed that the international community's readiness to help build a new Afghanistan was "linked with clear expectations," and named two of these.

"First, agreement on binding rules for a peaceful political process and on a broad-based, repre-

sentative transitional government. Second, respect for and protection of human rights," Fischer said.

He also said the conference should produce "a political signal for quickly solving the security problems that are still holding up the distribution of supplies in many parts of Afghanistan."

UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi brought a similar message from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, calling on the Afghan participants to finally choose the path of peace and reconciliation.

"You must not allow the mistakes of the past to be repeated, particularly those of 1992," Brahimi warned in a reference to bloody infighting between mujahedeen in the wake of the overthrow of the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah.

"To many skeptics, this is what you are about to do. You must prove them wrong," he said.

The first of the Afghan delegates to address the gathering was Yunus Qanooni, head of the delegation from the Northern Alliance, which has taken Kabul and much of the rest of the country from Taliban control with the help of heavy US air bombardment. *AFP*

Saudis refuse to freeze accounts linked to terror

WASHINGTON—Officials in Saudi Arabia are refusing to honor US requests to freeze bank accounts that Washington suspects are linked to terror groups, slowing the US-led global war on terror, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

Riyadh's hesitation on the financial front has prompted the administration of US President George W. Bush to prepare to send a delegation of state department, treasury and national security council officials to resolve the matter.

A high-level Saudi official told the US daily on condition of anonymity that US requests for the freezing of assets allegedly linked to terrorist organizations had not been backed up with sufficient proof.

"This is the problem between us and the Americans," he said. "When they ask us to do something, we say 'Give us the evidence.' That's when they accuse us of helping the terrorists."

The crackdown on terrorist financing is an important component of Bush's war on terror, sparked by the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States that left some 4,000 people dead.

Top US officials have repeatedly refuted reports that Riyadh was being less than cooperative in the US-led effort to stamp out terrorism, focused on nabbing top terror suspect Osama bin Laden and dismantling his al-Qaida network.

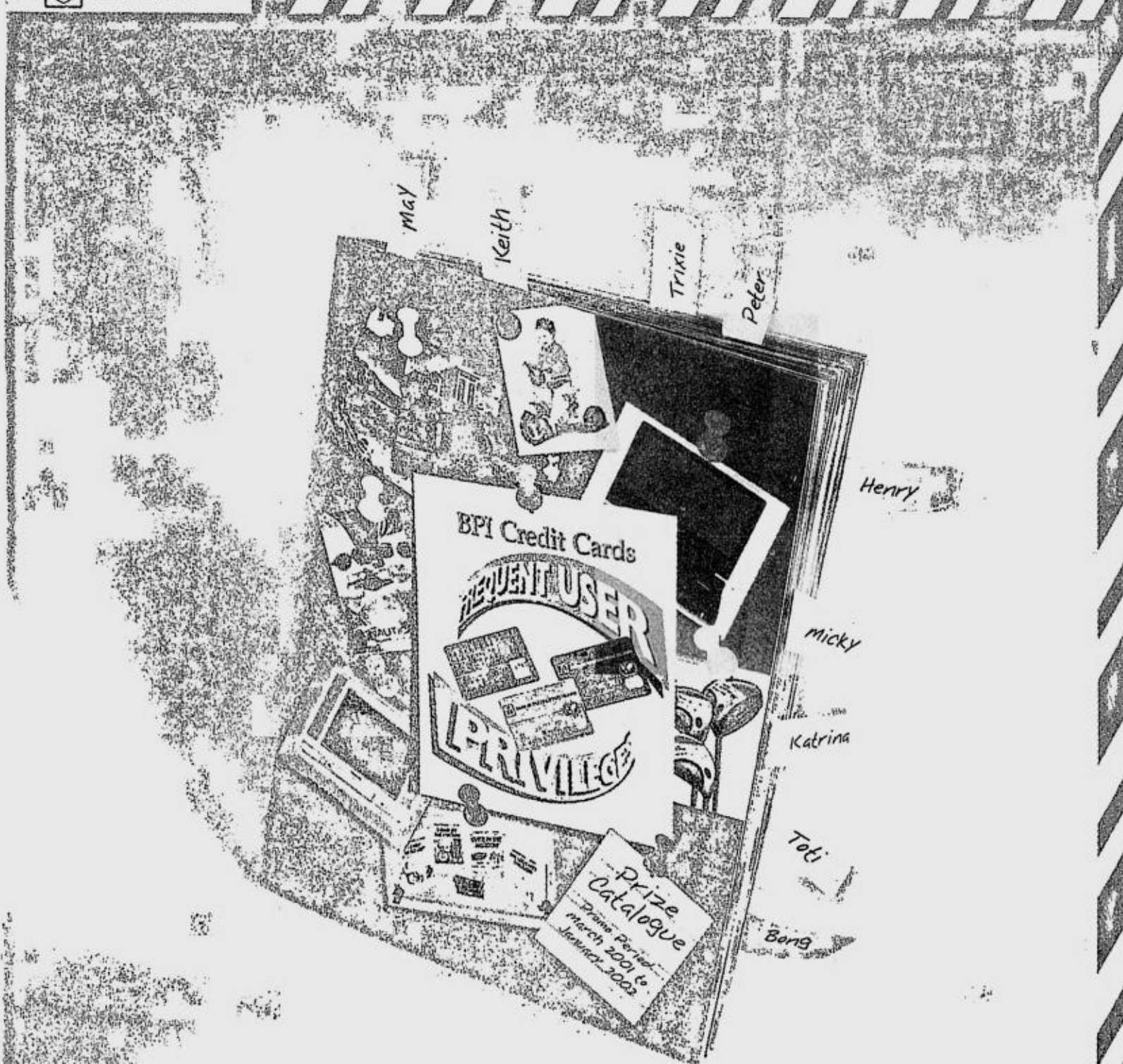
They say Saudi interior ministry officials have fully cooperated with US federal investigators in Saudi Arabia on the criminal front, but similar cooperation on terror financing has been slow in coming.

One US official told the New York Times that Riyadh had been asked to freeze accounts bearing the names of those identified by Washington as having links to terrorist organizations, but he did not know of funds actually being seized.

"We cannot move without evidence, and no one has given us the evidence," the senior Saudi official told the US paper.

Those expected in Riyadh as part of the US delegation include US deputy assistant secretary of state Ryan Crocker, responsible for the Persian Gulf states, and R. Richard Newcomb, director of the treasury department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, the paper reported. *AFP*

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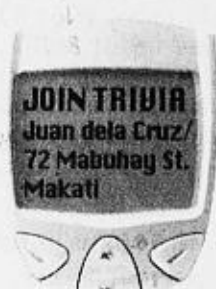
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Cell Trivia



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conference in 1999?

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basketball court?

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*Each successfully sent message will be charged P2.50

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King declares state of emergency in Nepal

KATMANDU—Nepal was calm Tuesday after a state of emergency was imposed across the country and the Army was deployed to tackle Maoist rebels who broke a ceasefire, leaving 280 people dead.

It was the first time a state of emergency had been declared in Nepal since the introduction of democracy 10 years ago.

It followed the worst violence by the leftist guerrillas since they launched their struggle to overthrow the constitutional monarchy and introduce a republic in 1996. More than 2,000 people have died as a result of the insurgency.

The Maoists broke a four-month truce on Friday with a series of attacks on police and army posts, local government offices and banks.

More than 280 people were killed in four days of violence—among them 200 Maoists and around 80 policemen and soldiers.

King Gyanendra, who ascended the throne in June after 10 members of the royal family were massacred, ordered the emergency Monday night on the advice of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's government.

The royal palace also announced that the Army was to be mobilized against the Maoists—the first time the military has been fully deployed in direct combat against them.

But despite the days of violence followed by the declaration of an emergency, the streets of the capital Katmandu were Tuesday morning bustling with people going to work, school or the shops.

There was no unusual or visible Police or Army presence in Katmandu—which was not one of the places affected by the weekend Maoist attacks—nor did there seem to be extra security at government offices or other sensitive places, witnesses said.

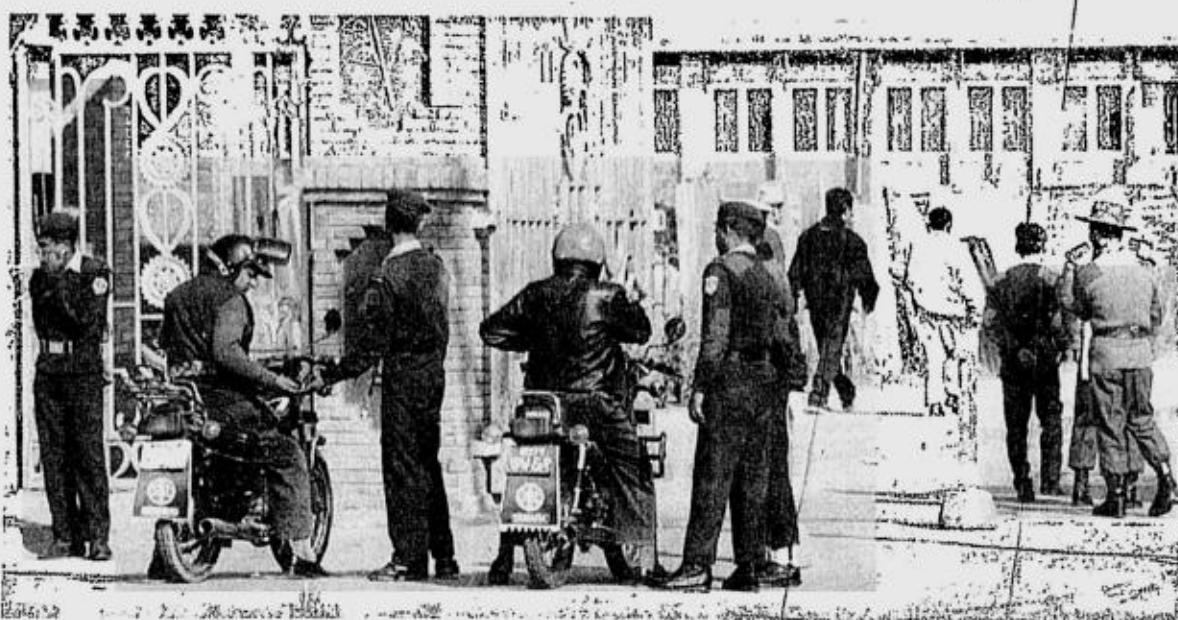
"I did not see any change in Katmandu despite the announcement of emergency yesterday," newspaper vendor Ram Prasad Khanal said.

"Everyone and everything looks normal as usual," shopkeeper Ramesh Tuladhar added.

Civil servant Laxmi Shrestha, who was on his way to work, said: "I was expecting a lot of Police or Army everywhere but I saw nobody. It seems like the emergency has not been imposed at all."

Home (interior) Minister of State Devendra Raj Kandel said: "We have not received any reports of violence in or outside Katmandu after the declaration of national emergency on Monday evening."

"In Kalikot, the stronghold of the Maoists (in northwest Nepal), the terrorists staged a demonstration with flaming torches on the hilltops and fired gunshots into the air, but they did not attack during the night," AFP



POLICE and military personnel ask government workers for their identification at the main gate to the central secretariat in Katmandu, Nepal, Nov. 27 after a state of emergency was declared following attacks by Maoists rebels who broke a four-month old ceasefire. AP

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- Ang Raffle Promo ay magtatagumpay sa May 30, 2001 hanggang March 18, 2002. Mga international money transfer na ipinadala at natanggap lamang ng sinumang Filipino citizens of legal age mula sa mga kasaling Western Union agent locations sa Metro Manila ang puwedeng isali sa prize draw.
- Sa usang pagtatanggap ng iyong pamilya o kaibigan ng international money transfer na galing sa iyo sa kahit saan mang participating Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila ay mabibigyan sila ng Western Union Pass Book at malalagyan ng isang sticker ang kanilang Pass Book.
- Sa bawat pagtatanggap nito ng international money transfer ay malalagyan ng isang sticker ang kanilang Pass Book.
- Kapag may tatanggap na ang kanilang Passbook at na-validate na ito ng participating Western Union agent sa Metro Manila ay pupapunta sila sa fulfillment centers para hilag ang kanilang Pass Book.
- Sa fulfillment center ay pupapunta ang kanilang Passbook na may tatlong stickers at ang booklet na may raffal coupon ay isosali sa customers kasama ng free gift na kanilang pipiliin (caps, T-shirts o phonebook).
- Pwedeng na silang sumali sa Western Union DREAM HOME PRIZE DRAW. Mga kompletong certificate lamang ng iyong qualified receiver (tutatangapin ang stickers kasama ang kanilang pangalan, address, telephone number, at signature), ang puwedeng isali sa prize draw.
- Di maaaring hilag ang mga stickers na natanggap ng iyong receiver (tutatangapin).

- hindi tatanggapin ng fulfillment centers ang tatlong certificates na may tig-isang sticker lamang.
- Makakakuha lamang ng free gift pag nakakompleto ng tatlong stickers sa Western Union Passbook.
- Para makasali sa prize draw, dapat maglingkod ang iyong receiver ng validated certificate sa drop box sa fulfillment center isang linggo bago ang scheduled na prize draw.
- Kapag ito ay di umabot, ang validated certificate ay isosali sa sumod na raffle draw.
- Tatlong DREAM HOME prize draw na gagangin sa 1/17 JMT Corporate Condominium Office, ADB Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, sa mga sumusunod na araw:
August 24, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
November 23, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
March 18, 2002 (12:00 ng tanghali)
- Ang Western Union Dream Home Promotion winner ay kailangang Filipino citizen of legal age.
- Ang sumunod sa bawat DREAM HOME prize draw ay siyang dapat na nakapangalang receiver sa tatlong qualifying international money transfers na isinali.
- Ipagalalm ng Western Union ang DREAM HOME winner ang kanyang pagkapanalo sa loob ng 48 hours ng prize draw sa pamamagitan ng Registered Mail.

- Ang mga hindi mamamang entries ay isosama sa mga sumunod na draws.
- Ipagbibigay alam sa mga nanalo ang petra ng awarding ceremony na gagangin sa loob ng house and lot na promo.
- Ilalabas din ang mga pangalan ng mga DREAM HOME winners sa print ads sa Pilipinas.
- Ang matatagumpay na premyo ng WESTERN UNION DREAM HOME winner ay isang house and lot sa Regencyville 2000 sa Barangay Inayacan, Truce Maricao, Cavite-Floor plan SPW-D (Constructor: DANFF Realty & Development Corporation).
- Isang house and lot lamang ang ipamimigay sa bawat draw at wala ng ibang premyong ibibigay maliban dito.
- Ang WESTERN UNION ang magbabayad ng 20% tax sa mga premyong hihigit ng P10,000.
- Ang WESTERN UNION Dream Home Prize Draw ay limitado lamang sa mga tatanggap (na Filipino citizens of legal age) ng international money transfer sa kahit saan mang kasaling Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila mula May 30, 2001 hanggang March 11, 2002.
- Mga premyo na hindi kukuha ng nanalo sa WESTERN UNION Dream Home Prize Draw ay isosali sa Western Union na may pamimili at approval ng DTI.

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Human cloning study prompts debates, furor

WASHINGTON—Rival scientists called it light-weight work and religious groups denounced it on moral grounds, but a company's claim to have cloned a human embryo is a solid route to tailored medical treatment, experts said on Monday.

Advanced Cell Technology, based in Worcester, Massachusetts, created an international furor when it announced on Sunday it had cloned a human embryo.

The company's chief executive officer, Michael West, stressed his researchers had no intention of creating cloned babies but rather wanted to use the embryos as sources of valuable stem cells.

But rival scientists pointed out that the ACT team did not even get close to creating embryos large enough to take stem cells from. Only one of the eggs survived as long as the six-celled stage, and they all stopped growing after a few hours.

"From what I saw yesterday, these guys didn't get very far," Kevin Wilson, spokesperson for the American Society for Cell Biology, said in a telephone interview.

"Do you call this thing an embryo?" asked stem cell expert John Gearhart of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. "I would have been more impressed if they'd got these things to blastocysts."

A blastocyst is a very early stage of pre-embryo, consisting of about 100 cells in a hollow ball. Stem cells cannot be harvested from a smaller group of cells.

"The data is not very convincing," Gearhart said.

Most scientific research is published in a slow and collegial process known as peer review, during which other scientists check the validity of the work.

West's team published the findings in the January issue of Scientific American, a magazine aimed at the general public, and in an online journal, E-biomed: Journal of Regenerative Medicine.

"On the one hand, I agree this is something which will be done, should be done. But to have it presented in such a fashion, even among scientists—it could have been done in a much more scientific manner, with peer reviews," Gearhart said.

Scientists who created Dolly the sheep, the first cloned mammal, called the work very preliminary.

"It is more a political and ethical milestone than it is a scientific milestone and certainly not a scientific breakthrough," Harry Griffin of Scotland's Roslin Institute said in a telephone interview.

But most agreed there was a valid reason to do the work. It holds the promise of someday allowing a doctor to take a piece of skin from a patient's arm and grow a perfectly matched piece of tissue, or even perhaps a new organ such as a heart, for transplant.

Reuters

New technique in breast cancer treatment bared

CHICAGO—A new technique may allow women in the early stages of breast cancer to complete treatment in one session, without the six weeks or more of daily radiation therapy now required, researchers reported on Monday.

The technique involves surgical removal of the tumor, a procedure called a lumpectomy, followed by temporary insertion of a metal sphere into the cavity to provide 25 minutes of radiation therapy for the breast tissue from the inside out.

The technique, being developed at University College London Medical School, was outlined in a report delivered at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America.

"Approximately three-quarters of women with breast cancer are candidates for lumpectomy, rather than mastectomy, which is total removal of the breast," said Jayant Vaidya, a surgeon at the British school.

"But because lumpectomy typically involves daily radiation treatment for an extended period of time, and mastectomy typically does not require radiation therapy, women sometimes choose mastectomy," he said.

"If this new technique is proved effective, it should make lumpectomy available to many more patients," he said. "Early tests are promising."

Jeffrey Tobias, a tumor specialist at the school, said: "We believe this is going to work. Most cancer recurrences occur immediately adjacent to the tumor—an area which receives radiation with this method."

Reuters

Palestinian gunmen open fire on crowd on first day of peace bid

JERUSALEM—Two Palestinian gunmen sprayed a crowd with rifle fire in the northern Israeli town of Afula Tuesday, injuring nine Israelis before being shot dead themselves by police and soldiers.

The attack came on the first day of a top-level US peace mission to the region to seek a ceasefire to end more than a year of bitter bloodletting.

Four of the injured were in a serious condition, ambulance services said.

"It was awful. I was on the balcony. All of a sudden I saw a young man spraying the crowd with rifle fire. There was a woman with a bag who tried to take cover and he shot her before being shot himself," said one woman witness on the radio.

The Israeli security forces were not ruling out that a third Palestinian gunman had escaped the scene of the attack, between a busy market and a bus station.

The attack, in broad daylight and in the center of the town, came just hours after the Israeli Army completed its withdrawal from the Palestinian town of Jenin in the West Bank, some 15 km away.

Meeting

It also coincided with a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and US Assistant Secretary of State William Burns and retired general Anthony Zinni, sent by Washington to find a way of ending the cycle of violence that has cost almost 1,000 lives in 14 months.

The pullback, seen by the Israeli press as a goodwill gesture as the US mission started amid a renewed spurt of violence in the region, was denounced by the Palestinians as a "swindle" designed purely to score points with the Americans and of no real value.

"This is a swindle. This is not a withdrawal, it's a redeployment, because Israeli forces are still surrounding Jenin," Palestinian Cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said.

"There are still checkpoints and tanks, there are still assassinations, entries into Palestinian villages and cities. Nothing has changed on the ground in the daily life of the Palestinians," he said.

"They did it because of the international pressure on Israel to withdraw" from Palestinian land, he said, referring to US-led calls for Israel to leave so-called Area A zones, which are deemed autonomous Palestinian areas.

The Israeli Army said its forces had left Palestinian self-rule areas in Jenin at 5 a.m. without incident, but continued to surround the town.

"Our forces deployed during the night to positions from where they can continue to protect the safety of the Israelis," a spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, Sharon was taking Burns and Zinni on a helicopter tour of the boundaries between Israel and the West Bank to emphasize the security concerns of the Jewish state, faced with 14 months of a Palestinian uprising against continued Israeli occupation and settlement of their land.

High Alert

Israel has been on high alert since it assassinated a top military mastermind of the hardline Islamic group Hamas on Friday.

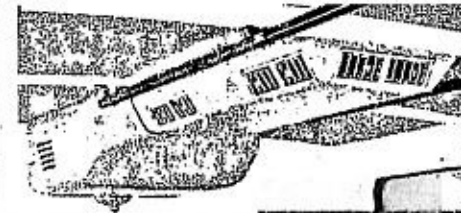
Hamas, and a series of other militant groups, vowed "hard and immediate" revenge against targets inside Israel, after a period of calm following the terror attack on the United States in September, which galvanized Washington into becoming more involved in the region.

Army radio said police in the north had been on the look-out for a group of Palestinians in the north who were planning an attack. AFP

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

'Lumads' slam Alvarez appointment

SAN LUIS, Agusan del Sur—At least 49 *datus* and leaders of the Banwaon tribe here yesterday signed a petition letter addressed to the members of the Commission on Appointments (CA) expressing their "total opposition" to the appointment of Heherson Alvarez as environment secretary.

In their petition, the Banwaon *datus* and leaders said they need an environment secretary who has genuine concern for their rights to ancestral lands and domains, qualities which they said Alvarez does not have after he "clearly signaled his intention of implementing the Industrial Forestry Program (IFP) of the DENR, under which the Industrial Forest Management Agreements (Ifmas) for industrial tree plantation are issued."

For them the program is against indigenous peoples as it fails to provide safeguards against the issuance of Ifma contracts to corporations with-

out proper and culturally appropriate consultations with affected indigenous communities.

They cited the issuance of five new Ifma contracts to St. Mary's Inc., Tecland Inc., Golden Hill Hills Inc., Caraga Forest Inc., and Transland Inc.

They said Ifmas cover areas in Agusan del Sur, but without prior consultation with the indigenous peoples concerned.

The newly approved Ifmas threaten the land and resource rights of Higaonon, Manobo and Banwaon communities, the *lumad* added.

They also alleged that Alvarez has not considered any measures to prevent the adverse impact of the program on their rights.

"We do not want the entry of these companies because they will only destroy our vast forestland. Once these are destroyed, local ecological relations will also be destroyed (and) that is inimical to the survival

and development of our communities and culture," said Nicasio Precioso, chair of the Tagdumahan Banwaon Organization to which the 49 signatories are members.

The five companies, which are joint ventures of New Zealander, Singaporean and Filipino investors, were awarded a total of 110,790 hectares of "open and denuded lands" in Agusan del Sur.

"His (Alvarez's) confirmation would mean the continuation of a program that ignores our ancestral land and domain rights. It means that he will be given the power to erode, if not assault, our ancestral lands and domains through his control of the DENR, its policies and programs," the signatories stressed.

The petition was signed during the culmination of the Tagdumahan Assembly held in Barangay Bali here over the weekend. Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau



CALL TO DUTY

Teachers were again in the frontline during Monday's elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The duty was particularly risky in the ARMM, which has a history of violent politics.

Drilon says coup won't split Senate

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Did the two-day National Economic Workshop of the Senate solidify Senate President Franklin Drilon's hold on his post?

Drilon, who last week faced the threat of being unseated by opposition senators, gave an elusive reply.

"The workshop has created a good atmosphere among the senators. It enhanced camaraderie, which (opposition) Sen. (Edgardo) Angara pointed out in his closing remarks," he said.

Pressed further, he said: "The position of the Senate president is something that is a gift of the senators and the matter of your continued stay as Senate president is the matter of confidence of the senators."

Until Sunday, opposition senators, who attended the two-day workshop, apparently did not pursue their bid to reorganize the Senate, with Drilon, an administration senator, remaining as its head.

But Drilon was very definitive about having a united house, at least on four items in an agenda for economic development.

"The senators set aside party lines in order to come up with a common legislative agenda given what we perceived to be a difficult year come 2002 because of various incidents and developments here and abroad," he said in a press conference here Sunday.

Only Senators Joker Arroyo, Juan Flavier, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Loren Legarda-Leviste, Gregorio Honasan, Sergio Osmeña III, Luisa Ejercito and Robert Barbers did not attend the workshop.

Drilon, in a statement, reiterated unity, claiming the "senators discarded their partisan differences."

The senators, according to him, agreed to prioritize bills on the creation of jobs by the private sector, improvement of governance to attract domestic and foreign investments, reduction of poverty and enhancement of resource mobilization for economic development.

Administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan, speaking in the same press conference, said he was "optimistic and hopeful" that the opposition's attempt to unseat Drilon over alleged lack of leadership was "dead in the water."

"We can infer (that) from the development of the last two days. Politics is the farthest thing in the minds of the senators," he said.

Female guerrilla killed in clash

DAVAO CITY—A female New People's Army guerrilla was killed while five other rebels were captured in separate clashes in Southern Mindanao on Friday and Sunday, the military said Monday.

The military said the clashes came in the wake of the government's campaign against the renewed activities of the rebels.

On Sunday, Zenaida Beron alias Commander Lalay was killed after her unit clashed with elements of the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion in Purok 6, Upper Tamayong in Calinan District here.

Col. Eduardo del Rosario, com-

mander of the 73rd Infantry Battalion, said the encounter occurred as soldiers were checking on reports of the presence of heavily armed rebels, who were extorting money from the villagers.

"As our troops were entering Purok 6, they were fired upon by the rebels," Del Rosario said.

The soldiers fired back, instantly killing the female guerrilla, according to Del Rosario. Two rebels surrendered after they were wounded in the encounter.

On Friday afternoon, the military said it captured at least three communist guerrillas after an encounter in Laak,

Compostela Valley.

The captured rebels were identified as Joseph Maste alias Bayugbayug, 28, of Agusan del Sur, who was brought to the Davao Regional Hospital in Apocon, Tagum City for treatment of wounds, Joseph Estampa alias Cocoy, 28, of Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, and Jonnes Dumagat alias Tibol, 16, of Upper Banlag, Monkayo, Compostela Valley.

The military said the captured rebels were members of the NPA's Front Committee 3 under Henry Onco alias Commander Henry. Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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NPA revenue: P28M a year

LUCENA CITY—The military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar here Monday said the New People's Army is raking in at least P28 million in revolutionary tax collections annually in the Calabarzon area in Southern Tagalog.

This is aside from the P8 million a year which the NPA collects in Gumaca, Lopez and other neighboring towns along the Lamun Bay area in Quezon, the military added.

"They extorted from all business sources, legal and illegal. But most of the money is being channeled (to) the Netherlands to meet the lifestyle of the communist leadership there. The NPA guerrilla

units in the field are being left to fend on their own," Maj. Gen. Narciso Abaya, Solcom chief, told newsmen here.

Col. Efron Orbon, 1st Infantry Brigade commanding officer based in Laguna, presented two young-looking rebel returnees, which, he said, had long been fed up with the hardship in the rebel movement.

Orbon said the former NPA rebels, which he requested not to be identified, led the government troops to the communists' "weapons safety-deposit areas" in four locations in Laguna.

"There would be more of these discoveries in the coming days," he said. Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cancelled invitation angers Rosebud

BY ALEX V. PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Hell hath no fury like a Rosebud scorned.

Controversial ex-Narcotics Command agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong has fixed her aim at a new object of despise—City Mayor Agustín Perdiges.

Perdiges incurred Ong's ire over what she claimed was the sudden "cancellation" of an invitation for her to judge the Miss Dumaguete Pageant on Nov. 24.

Ong said the cancellation was reportedly triggered by a threat from a pageant sponsor, who is a supporter of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, to withdraw support if she was to judge the pageant.

Ong had linked Lacson and some top ranking police officials to several criminal activities including illegal drug trafficking and kidnapping, which the senator strongly denied.

"For all those years that (Perdiges) had been in power, his bulls are getting smaller!" she told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Monday.

"It takes a lot of patience than courage to fight for a cause. In the case of Perdiges, what he showed was an act of cowardice," Ong said later in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Perdiges denied he was pressured into canceling Ong's invitation, saying he never sent any invitation to her at all.

"There was a draft but it was never finalized. I never signed any letter inviting Rosebud to become a judge in the Miss Dumaguete pageant," he said.

But city information officer Edilberto Euraoba II, a member of the Fiesta Executive Committee, said one of the sponsors in the pageant, who was a staunch campaigner of Lacson, threatened to boycott the pageant if Ong would be one of the judges.

"It took (the) sponsor a long time to give their P20,000 contribution," he said. But Euraoba did not say if the delay was related to the alleged cancellation of Ong's invitation.

Ong said she received in October a written invitation signed by Perdiges. This was followed by another letter dated Nov. 12 signed by Jessica Layumas, Fiesta 2001 Executive Committee Secretariat, she added.

Ong, who was in Bais City from Nov. 21 to 23 to address several anti-drug abuse meetings, said she waited for a call from Perdiges on the details of her participation in the pageant. But the call never came, she added.

"Bais Mayor (Hector) Tata Villanueva spoke with Mayor Perdiges and Tata later told me that the activity was cancelled," Ong said. She said she tried calling Perdiges directly but he did not answer his phone. She took the

afternoon flight on Nov. 24 back to Manila.

Perdiges said Layumas was not authorized to send the letter. "All those invitations to the incoming judges were in writing (and) signed by me. If she can show me that I wrote her to be a judge then I will apologize but I don't think I ever wrote her to (invite her to) become a judge," he said.

Perdiges said he invited Ong to come to Dumaguete to speak about drug abuse because she was going to do the same in Bais and Tanjay cities.

"I should be the one angry at Rosebud because I scheduled a meeting of all Rotary Clubs with her as our guest last Friday," he said.

"I was embarrassed when she did not show up because she preferred to cut the ribbon for the Bais City Christmas decorations. She should explain why she did not appear for the dinner with Rotary," he added.

A member of the Fiesta Executive Committee, who asked not to be named, said most committee members did not want Ong to sit as one of the judges.

"Supt. John Campos' former wife Gina Roxas was a beauty queen here in Dumaguete and it would not look good for John's former live-in partner to be a judge in a Dumaguete beauty pageant," the source said.



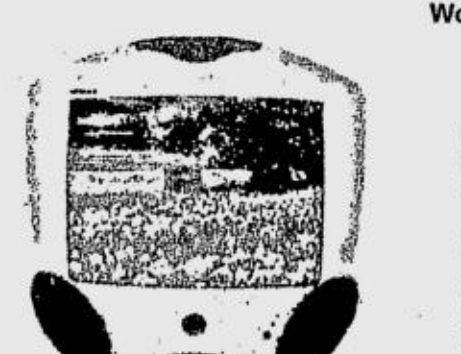
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POPCOM Executive Director Tomas M. Osias said couples cannot realize their dreams alone and their contributions to national development without the support of government.

He said local governments are at the frontline of providing quality reproductive health services that include family planning services.

This has been proven to be helpful, he said, because in areas where local executives provide family planning services, couples accepted and used family planning methods.

As a result, these local government units have empowered and touched the lives of their people in terms of improved incomes, livelihood opportunities and better health and nutrition.

In her keynote speech during the Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo affirmed the local government units' role in population and reproductive health. She said that, "the government has the responsibility to provide information on medically safe and socially acceptable means to address our birthrate and its consequences on maternal and child health as well as population growth."

Osias said local governments are capable of urging couples prevent the adverse consequences of unwanted fertility or having too many children that a couple planned or intended.

Dominant among these is the burden on the lives of women and children. One out of five births delivered by Filipino women is unplanned; 172 out of 100,000 women die from pregnancy and childbirth-related complications and 36 out of 1,000 infants die from risks that can be prevented.

Too many pregnancies compromise women's health and put them to unnecessary exposure to maternal risks. It also limits their freedom to do economic and political activities that they want to participate in.

The burden of unplanned pregnancies is shared by men, who are at the receiving end of economic burdens that strain their efforts in looking for economic opportunities for the family. They are also affected by the maternal risks their women partners face.

"Family planning sets the start of an improved way of life," Osias said. "Well-planned families enjoy better opportunities and a more comfortable life."

In the observance of Population and Development Week (23 to 29 November), POPCOM will hold its annual National Population Congress with the theme, "Local Governance, Reproductive Health and Population," on 28 November 2001 at the Manila Galleria Suites, Pasig City.

Said PopCongress will start with the opening of a photo exhibit featuring the population program of the Municipality of Dulag, Leyte.

Socio-economic Planning Secretary Dante B. Canlas will keynote the program with an encouragement to couples to adopt family planning especially in this time of economic slowdown and will reiterate the government's policy of educating people in order to empower them in making the right decisions.

Several key leaders from government, private and non-government sectors will react to his presentation, namely: Dr. Alberto Romualdez, Jr, President, Friendly

Care Foundation, Inc.; Mr. Ariel Castro, Director, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines; Mayor Mary Jane Ortega of San Fernando, La Union; Dr. Madeleine Valera, Vice President of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation; and Dr. Loreto

Roquero, Officer-in-Charge of the Philippine National AIDs Council.

The event will gather legislators, government agency executives and officials and advocates of population and reproductive health.

The event will culminate in the

Rafael M. Salas Population and Development Awards which recognizes outstanding work and contribution by individuals, organizations as well as local government units in population and development.

This year, the awards will be

conferred to two institutions: Pangascasan Women's Multi-purpose Cooperative of Sual, Pangasinan and the Associates for Integral Development Foundation of Butuan City.

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Bataan folk build turtle sanctuary

BY TONETTE OREJAS
Bataan

AKANTUAN (green turtle or *Chelonia mydas*), estimated to be 6 years old, and five kantiwan or Olive Ridley hatchlings (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) rode the waves on Friday in the sea off Morong, Bataan.

They were the latest additions to the 11,725 of their kinds that residents of Barangay Nagbalayong in Morong had rescued or hatched

and returned to the sea since January last year.

As soon as Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement president Wigberto Tañada and Bataan Vice Gov. Rogelio Roque set the turtles free, some 200 schoolchildren and 50 visitors watched in awe, clapped and cheered as the kantiwan crawled from the coast, reached the waters and disappeared into the vast South China Sea.

About 20 soot-covered boys, who opened the farewell ceremony with *ati-atihan* dances, came to the rescue of the reluctant hatchlings. They jumped into the waters, rousing the waves to prod the tiny creatures to swim.

"These turtles always have happy departures. I hope they survive out there," said Manolo Ibias, chair of the Bantay Pawikan Inc. (BPI), the peo-



FORMER Rep. Wigberto Tañada, president of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (middle) and Bataan Vice Gov. Rogelio Roque (left) take turns clipping metal tags on the flippers of green turtles before these are set free into the South China Sea off Morong, Bataan.

TONETTE OREJAS

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ple's organization that has transformed Nagbalayong into a safe turtle habitat.

Rosalie Ona, president of the Unlad PRRM Bataan, said 99 percent of the 11,843 turtles gathered or hatched by the residents survived the in-situ (on-site) conservation activities in Nagbalayong, a coastal village at the northwestern tip of the Bataan peninsula and at the foot of the Bataan National Park.

Much of what were saved from egg poachers were kantiwan turtles, one of the endangered species in the Philippines, according to Wendell Acena of the PRRM, who is assisting the BPI in managing the project.

"It's really successful," said barangay chair Sevilla Reyes of the project, which the BPI began in September 1999. "Egg poaching has almost stopped."

Sacrifices

Ibias said the residents have sacrificed a lot to make the project a success. It meant giving up the tradition of eating egg turtles as a protein source.

"Navalan din ng kita (They lost income from selling the eggs and turtle meat)," he said of fishing families.

Turtle eggs are highly in demand outside of Bataan for their supposed aphrodisiac value. These are sold at P250 a piece. Turtle meat fetches as much as P1,000 a kilo.

For former egg poacher Amado Llenarez, 58, the turtle conservation project is an "investment on the environment, the returns of which will be reaped by the young generation."

"It was not too late when I realized that turtles are important in the ecological balance of our village which depends very much on the sea for food and income," Llenarez, one of the pioneers of the BPI, told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

The sea, according to him, gave signs that something was wrong. The daily fish catch became even fewer because of dynamite fishing. The eggs, usually abounding by the hundreds at any one time between September and February, diminished; the turtles were scared away by blasts.

The village, he stressed, has to cease being an "inhospitable host" to the turtles that, by nature's wonder, return to nest on the very same place where they were hatched.

"They have no option but to come back to Nagbalayong again and again. It's their established nesting bench," Llenarez explained.

Resistance

There was resistance to the project at first, Acena said. All the poachers live on a hand-to-mouth existence.

But the PRRM's education efforts, coupled by livelihood support from the Bataan government, eventually paid off.

"We had to make them understand that it was their environment and their resources, short-term or long-term, that were at stake," Acena said.

The livelihood assistance, in the form of rice trading, loans for motorboats and shirt selling, remained inadequate, according to Ibias, also a municipal councilor. He suggested more help to the villagers.

"It was not easy giving up poaching but our people realized that it harms the environment. But they persisted in stopping the practice because they knew the implications on the children's future," he added.

The Bantay Dagat of Morong helps curb dynamite fishing in the area.

Proof of their determination, according to Ibias, is the Pawikan Conservation Center, which the BPI opened in the village on Friday.

The center, designed as a source of information and research on turtle protection and conservation in Bataan, complements the hatchery and the pond that the BPI earlier put up with the support of the United Nations Development Program's Global En-

vironment Facility (UNDP-GEF).

The BPI's work is one of 83 projects that the UNDP is supporting throughout the country.

The next plan, according to Ibias, is to hold turtle festivals every year in other towns of Bataan.

"We are doing it. They can also do it," he said.

The BPI's initiatives have amazed Tañada. "It's one of the few good news of our troubled times," he said during the center's inauguration.

He noted that Morong, which became the center of the Filipino people's struggle against the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant during the 1970s up to the 1980s, is taking on another responsibility.

From preventing a nuclear catastrophe that could have occurred because the facility was unsafe for operations, Tañada said Morong residents have shown that they can lead in turtle conservation efforts.

"What you are doing should be sustained and replicated in other coastal villages of the country," he told the residents.

Already, the sustaining part seemed to have been given assurance. Seven-year-old John Rowe Manalo is already familiar with the ways of the turtles.

"My friends come only to hatch their eggs. They start coming in September. They crawl so slowly. I follow their marks on the sand. When I track down the mounds where they buried their eggs, I slowly pierce a bamboo stick into the mounds. When it's hollow, I know there are eggs inside. Slowly, I open the mound with my hands and carefully transfer the eggs to the hatchery. That's how I save my friends," Manalo explained in Filipino.

Excited

Abigail Labampa, 10, is so excited with the turtles that, without fail, she comes to the pond after classes to check if they have eaten, how they have fared in swimming or to witness another hatching.

She also makes sure that the hatchery's fence, made of fishing nets, is always up so dogs will not eat the eggs.

"I always like seeing them returned to the sea," Edward Llenarez, 9, said.

Teresa Postelero, 11, said she was sure that the many turtles they have sent off would return for nesting in Nagbalayong.

By then, she said, she might be in her 30s or 40s. "I would know them from the metal tags on their flippers. My father caught many turtles and he put tags on them."

Arceia Borcena, also a BPI leader, said many of the children have also ceased asking for turtle eggs for *pasalubong* from their fathers who return after a night at sea.

Many times, children join their parents patrol the coast to protect newly nested eggs.

The residents have earned the admiration of Angelita Cunanan, UNDP-GEF national coordinator.

"They are the real heroes of this project," she said, recounting the five occasions she has been in Nagbalayong to witness the residents at work.

To promote the protection of turtles, resident Danny Bacia put music into "Mayuming Pawikan (Gentle Turtle)," written by Acena.

To sustain the efforts of the residents, Environment Assistant Secretary Raymond Mendoza has recommended Nagbalayong's declaration as a critical wildlife habitat.

The village is now recognized as an important conservation area, according to Dr. Mondita Lim, assistant director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau.

There is a threat, however, to the turtle habitat, said Acena.

Nearby Bagac town, also a nesting beach, is being considered a site for the waste facility of Metro Manila and Bataan. "It threatens to reverse what the residents have painfully started here," he said.

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Central Visayas and the Eastern section of Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Northeastern Mindanao. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 28°
Bagulo	Partly Cloudy	HI 21° Lo 18°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 17°
Laos	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 17°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 16°
Yagorlay	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 17°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 23°
Catapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 22°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Don. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Layosa, PDI Research/11/28/01

ROUNDUP

Ex-rebels get amnesty, cash

AFTER waiting for at least two years, 557 former rebels from Leyte, Samar and the Bicol region finally received their certificates of amnesty from the government. In a simple rite on Nov. 19 in Tacloban City, 340 ex-rebels from Leyte received their certificates and P1,750 in cash. The next day, 120 ex-rebels from Samar were given their certificates and allowances in a ceremony in Catbalogan town. In Legazpi City, 97 former rebels from the Bicol region got their certificates and cash over the weekend. The cash was an early Christmas gift to the former rebels. *Cynthia Borqueta, PDI Visayas Bureau and Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Clan feud displaces 155

DAVAO CITY—At least 155 people from Paquibato District fled their homes after a rift between two feuding families intensified. Reports reaching the regional police office here said the displaced individuals refused to return to their homes, after members of the Bernal clan allegedly killed Cesar Cabungag on Nov. 15. The Cabungag and Bernal clans have been fighting over a parcel of land in Samal Island. Last month, the feud also caused the death of Rogelio Bernal, former chair of Barangay Mabuhay.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 drug pushers held

DAVAO CITY—Policemen on Friday arrested at least two suspected pushers after the vehicle they were riding in yielded half a kilo of marijuana. Sammy Mangenlaud, 24, of Sampaguita St., Rose Village Subdivision, Lanang; and Windely Paulino, 39, driver, of New Trading, San Pedro Extension, were immediately investigated. Charges are being prepared against them, police said.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NPA burns bus

CAMALIG, Albay—Suspected New People's Army rebels burned a Philtranco air-conditioned bus Sunday, in Barangay Libod here, some 15 km from Legazpi City. Driver Jose Realubit said one of the four gunmen ordered him at gunpoint towards an interior area, some 300 meters from the Maharlika Highway. The armed men ordered the 40 passengers and two employees to alight from the bus. The suspects poured gasoline into the vehicle and set it on fire. No one was reported hurt. Police said it was the third Philtranco air-conditioned bus to be burned by suspected NPA rebels in the region this year.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rebels execute 3 men

MAKILALA, North Cotabato—Communist rebels operating here and in nearby towns announced that they have executed at least three persons for various offenses.

The Magtanggol Roque Command of the New People's Army Front 51 identified those meted the death penalty by a "revolutionary court" as Binoo Amolo, Zaldy Loma and a Nonoy Anifon, all residents of this town.

Ricardo Benjamin, a rebel spokesperson, said in a statement dated Nov. 20 that Amolo, a resident of Barangay Malasila, was executed on Oct. 7. Loma, a resident of Barangay New Bulatukan "was meted revolutionary justice" on Nov. 8 while Anifon, also of Barangay Malasila, was executed on Nov. 11.

Insp. Eduardo Paniqui, town police chief, said police had confirmed that the NPA did kill the three. But they found that the executed "criminals" have no record with the police.

Paniqui said he suspects that the three victims were NPA guerrillas themselves, who might have committed acts against the rebel organization.

Benjamin said the three "offenders" were found guilty of serious crimes that included rape, murder and theft. *Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Solon won't pay amusement taxes to gov't

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Rep. Oscar Garin of Iloilo's first district has refused to pay the amusement tax levied by the Iloilo provincial government on his two resorts located in his hometown of Guimbal, 30 kilometers from here.

In a 16-page position paper, the family maintained that the Bantayan Beach Resort and the Racsos Woodland Inland Resort do not owe the province amusement taxes because these are not places of amusement.

The position paper, dated Nov. 16, was sent by Garin's daughters—Janette Colada and Christine Garin—to Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas in reply to the provincial government's letter asking the resorts to pay 33 percent in amusement taxes from gross receipts of the resorts' P50 admission fee.

Provincial legal officer Manuel Justiniani said the Bantayan and the Racsos have not been paying amusement taxes to the province since these started operating in 1996 and in 1999.

He urged the congressman to open his book of accounts so that the province can collect amusement taxes from his two resorts.

The Bantayan has a cigarette and beer retail outlet, a restaurant, a retail store and lodging houses.

Racsos

In front of the beach resort is the Racsos, which was derived from the congressman's name spelled backwards. It has a zoo, swimming pools, a shooting range, an aviary and bowling lanes.

Justiniani said among the amusement places in the province, these two resorts are considered the most popular.

Yet, he added, the province has not received a single centavo from the resorts owned by the political clan, which happens to be the political ally of his boss, Governor Tupas.

Garin, who ran under the Lapiang ng Masang Pilipino, supported Tupas' gubernatorial bid against Vice Gov. Demy Sonza of Lakas-NUCD in the last elections. Garin claims to be among the top 20 richest congressmen.

But Garin said his resorts are not places of amusement as defined by Section 22 of the Local Government Code that mandates the collection of amusement taxes from theaters, cinemas, concert halls, circuses, boxing stadiums and other places of amusement.

He said the antics of monkeys and crocodiles in his zoo can hardly qualify as performances. The word "amusement," he added, could be applied to a show, like one being "amused by a beautiful woman dancing."

Places of amusement

But Justiniani said Garin's resorts are places of amusement because Section 131 of the Local Government Code defines amusement as "pleasurable diversion and entertainment" synonymous with relaxation, avocation or fun.

He also said provincial ordinance No. 98-29, passed in 1998, levies a 33 percent tax on gross receipts of amusement places. Half of the amount will go to the town's coffers and the other half to the province.

"When the tax ordinance was passed in 1992, a member of the Garins, Oscar Jr., was the first district board member. In 1998, when the ordinance was amended, another member of the family, Janette, the wife of Oscar Jr., was also a board member. They knew there is such an existing provincial tax ordinance," said Justiniani.

He also denied allegations of Garin's daughters that he was only singling out the Racsos and the Bantayan. He said similar notices had been sent to 500 other resorts, cockpits and amusement centers.

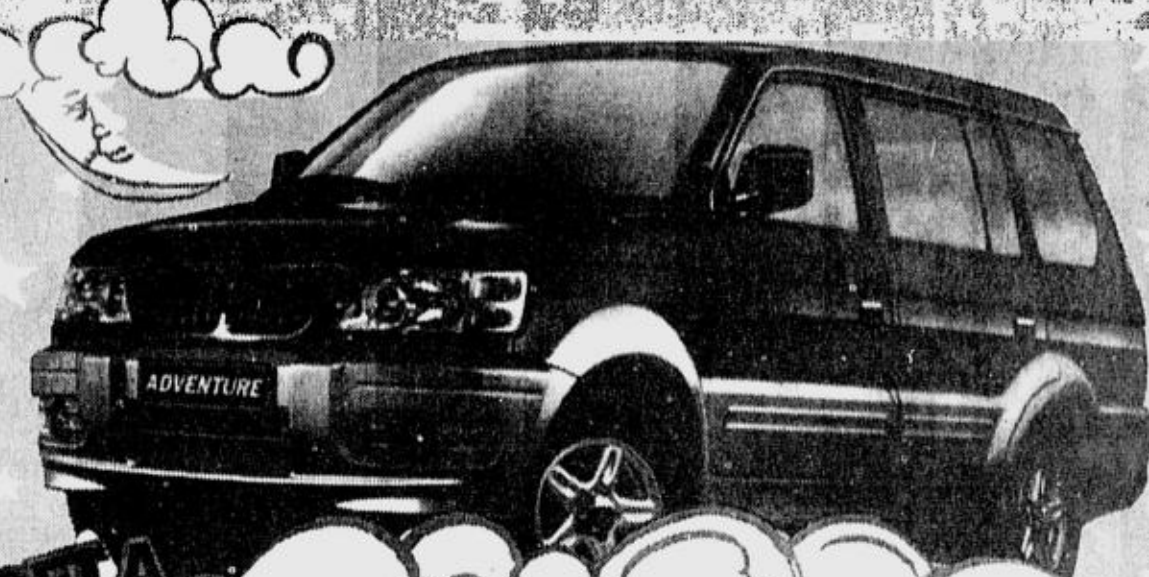
Owners of these establishments had started coming to the Capitol to settle their obligations after receiving their notices, he added.

Justiniani said the Garins should prove that Racsos and Bantayan are exempt from taxes and should seek the opinion of the courts.

In several radio interviews, Garin said he had paid close to P800,000 in permits and taxes to the Guimbal municipal government since Racsos started operating in 1999.

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1u	HANABISHI Turbo (HOR-2700)
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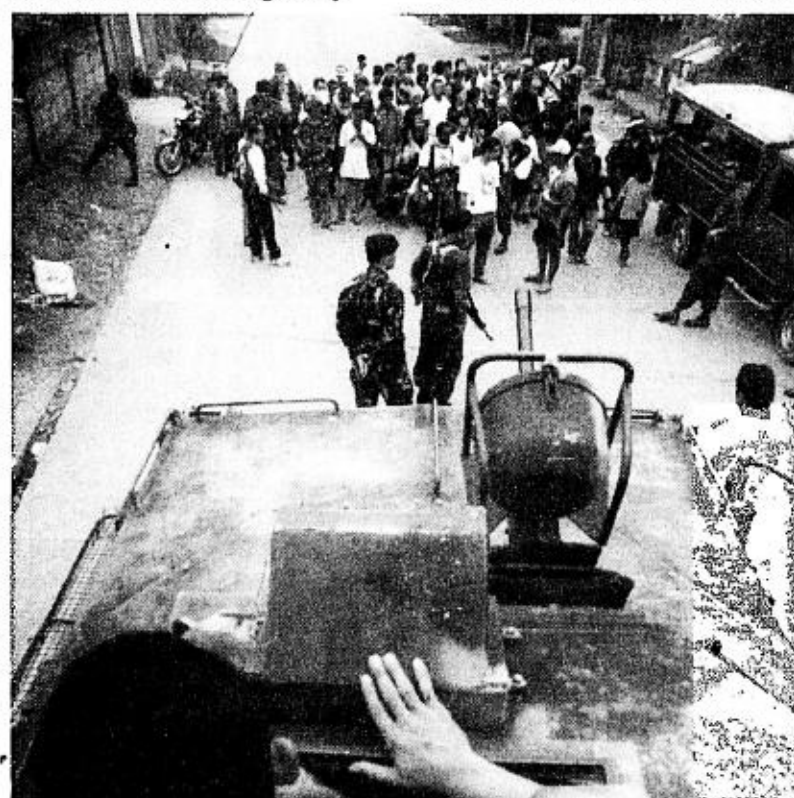


NEPHEW of the rebellious Nur Misuari, Julhambrie Misuari, claims the military started the firefight. ROLLY SAN JUAN

HELPLESS troops (above) retreat from the MNLF guerrillas using bound hostages to escape. (Extreme right, top) A mother and her two children are released by the armed men as they herd hostages out of their compound which they had occupied since last week. (Extreme right, below) Fear is etched on the faces of the hostages. REUTERS



FAMILY run for their lives out of their subdivision in Fairview Drive, Sta. Maria, Zamboanga City. CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU



USELESS military hardware: APC versus a few rebels but protected by civilian hostages. CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

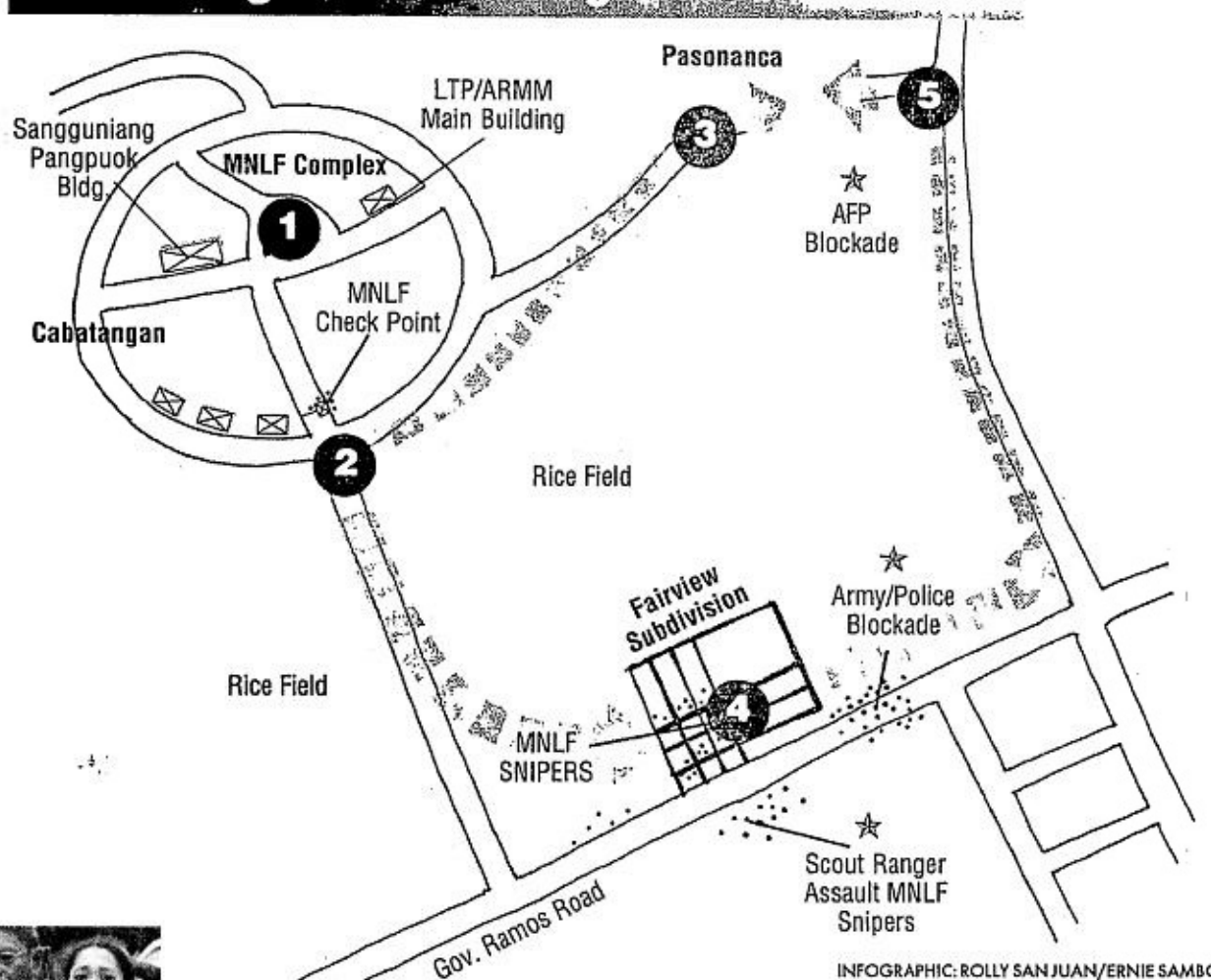
Sequence of Events:

- 1** MNLF rebels loyal to Nur Misuari fire at military positions. They claim that the military attacked them first. Helicopter gunships and planes bomb complex.
- 2** AT DAWN, MNLF rebels leave buildings and split into two groups with hostages in tow.
- 3** ONE group proceeds to Pasonanca to join a group led by Julhambrie Misuari.
- 4** ANOTHER group flees toward Fairview Subdivision and took hostages.
- 5** MNLF group with hostages march toward Pasonanca.



CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Zamboanga MNLF Hostage Crises



INFOGRAPHIC: ROLLY SAN JUAN/ERNIE SAMBO

"ALLAH is great," (at left) an MNLF member loyal to Misuari shouts as he clenches his fist surrounded by his fellow rebels and hostages to assure them safe passage through a military cordon. (At right) The body count rises; Laureano Perez is killed by MNLF rebels when he tried to escape from being taken hostage.



CHARLIE SACEDA

27 die in Zamboanga City fighting

(From page A1)

Yanga said the gunmen held hostage 30 people at the Fairview Subdivision in Barangay Sta. Maria, and about 50 people on Duramos Road in Pasonanca.

Both barangays are about a kilometer away from Cabatangan.

Col. Ireneo Espino, Southcom chief of intelligence, said the rebels refused to lay down their arms.

At 2 p.m., the renegade MNLF forces under Mubin Bantain and their hostages started walking from Sta. Maria to Pasonanca. The hostages were tied with a rope and were surrounded by the armed men.

Soldiers and policemen escorted the rebels in their two-hour walk.

The military said the MNLF forces were the first to fire mortar shells, forcing government forces to respond by dropping bombs on the complex.

The air strikes forced the MNLF fighters to scamper into different directions. Some entered the Fairview Subdivision in Barangay Sta. Maria while the others went to Kilometer 4 in Pasonanca.

But Julhambrie said it was the military that started the firefight. "We were about to break fast when suddenly they fired at us," he said on mobile phone when contacted by the INQUIRER.

"I really don't know what happened; we were confused. I personally promised (Zamboanga) Vice Mayor (Ernie Fabian) that we will leave the area as soon as a new ARMM governor replaces Misuari. But they attacked us," Julhambrie said.

he added.

Col. Danilo Servando, Southern Command spokesperson, denied earlier reports that three soldiers were killed.

"They were merely injured," he said. Pronounced dead on arrival at the Zamboanga City Medical Center were Lilian Pangan, Wilfredo Oliveros, a certain Sgt. Rolando Cabagal, Canoy and an unidentified male.

Two agents of the Military Intelligence Coordinating Office (Mico) were also wounded.

"The two agents tried to rescue the hostages, unfortunately they were spotted by the rebels. One is still left in the place and we suspect that he might have already been killed by the rebels," a Mico agent, identified only as Alan, told the INQUIRER.

Another civilian, later identified as Laureano Perez, was found dead under a tree near the Cabatangan Complex.

Three suspected MNLF members were also killed, two of whom were identified as Kumander Dats and Jaji Salubudin.

Allan Cajucom, a staff of the Philippine National Red Cross, said he had five wounded MNLF members who were under Mubin Bantain.

In Jolo, sources close to the hostage-takers said fear of a military attack forced the MNLF forces to snatch the civilians and use them as human shields.

The sources said the armed men, most of whom were recruited from Basilan and Sulu to join Misuari's group as "security" for the ARMM property in Zamboanga, "were ignorant of the situation they were getting into."

"They were offered a job as security (guards), and they accepted. They don't share the ideology of chair Misuari, and they did not expect to be embroiled in this situation," a relative of one of the hostage-takers told the INQUIRER on the phone.

Desperate

Even sources formerly associated with Misuari's group said the armed men took the hostages in desperation because they feared a military attack following the conclusion of the ARMM elections.

The sources said the armed men wanted to leave Cabatangan as early as Saturday, but a military cordon around the complex pressured the men to stand their ground.

"They are too ignorant to understand what they have done. They don't even know that their leader has been arrested and is facing charges," the source, who declined to be named, said.

The source said most of the armed men were recruited from Abu Sayyaf-infested Lantawan and Maluso towns in Basilan.

Safe passage

Ibrahim Idjirani, interior assistant secretary of the ARMM, confirmed that Julhambrie was demanding the pullout of all troops from the city proper to allow them to return to their respective provinces.

"I'm sure we can resolve this demand, and we are now making our best to secure all the hostages inside," Idjirani said.

He added that the hostage-takers were willing to talk peace with the government. Acting ARMM Gov. Alvarez Isnaji said he was tapped to "help resolve the hostage crisis."

Isnaji left by helicopter to Zamboanga early yesterday afternoon to meet with the group.

the group.

"We are making an appeal to Misuari loyalists to agree to peaceful negotiations. But as of now, we still do not know which side started the firefight," Isnaji said after a briefing at Camp Bautista in Jolo.

Isnaji said the firefight broke out after the armed Misuari loyalists refused a request by the military to leave the Cabatangan premises.

He expressed the hope that problem would be resolved soon as the armed men were merely requesting safe passage to their hometowns in Basilan.

"These (Misuari loyalists) are our brothers. We understand each other, so I hope we can come to a peaceful resolution," he said.

He said what the government wanted was that all personalities identified with Misuari return to the fold of the government.

Lay down arms

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southcom chief, promised President Macapagal-Arroyo "to resolve the conflict by sundown," National Security Adviser Rolito Golez said in Manila.

"The rebels will be allowed to lay down their firearms. They will be allowed to leave the place, but they must leave their firearms and they must release all their hostages," Adan said.

Misuari aide Nung Ajihil confirmed that the hostage-takers were demanding safe exit from Zamboanga.

"They want to negotiate. Their demand is to be allowed to freely return to their hometowns," Ajihil said.

Earlier, lawyer Manuel Mamaug, Commission on Human Rights director for

Western Mindanao, said that the Misuari loyalists had occupied the houses of civilians, looted their personal belongings, food and farm animals.

"We were able to get video footage of the looting. Foodstuffs were stolen, religious icons were destroyed and religious posters were torn," Mamaug said.

Classes here were ordered suspended by Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat.

Some 1,500 have evacuated to the Mayor Joaquin F. Enriquez Memorial Sports Complex in Barangay Baliwasan and to classrooms in Pasonanca and Sta. Maria.

Freed hostages

First to be freed among the hostages was Bong Bue, an RPN-9 radio and TV broadcaster.

He was instructed to tell the military that the rebels were demanding that the soldiers leave Cabatangan.

Evelyn Rose Colinares, 8, Kyle Colinares, 9, Pocholo Luis Colinares, 5, Elvin Saavedra, 11 and Remedios Fernando, 72, were released later in the afternoon.

In Cotabato City, police raided the house of Misuari's nephew identified as Sincer Misuari, ARMM chief security officer.

Police confiscated eight M-16 and M-14 rifles, six rifle grenades and thousands of bullets at his residence in Notre Dame Village.

Sincer Misuari escaped but two of his men were arrested. He maintains an 11-member team securing the ARMM compound.

"We did this to prevent similar incident in Zamboanga City," Supt. Sanggacalan Dampac said.

The Cabatangan Complex was built in 1980 to serve as the seat of the Regional Autonomous Government.

Zamboanga City used to be the seat of the autonomous government until the plebiscite of 1989 when it opted out of the autonomous region.

It was retired Adm. Romulo Espaldon who undertook the purchase of the land and who approved the architectural plans for the buildings.

He envisioned it as a government complex "where all regional government offices would be located to facilitate the delivery of services to the constituency."

The city government of Zamboanga had repeatedly proposed to purchase the property, but it was met by strong objections from officials of the ARMM who insisted on making it their satellite office, purportedly to serve the Muslim constituency in Zamboanga City.

The INQUIRER learned in a recent visit to the area that the buildings were instead being used as living quarters of Misuari's staff and armed escorts and their families.

It was also learned that even Abu Sayyaf commanders like Galib Andang alins Commander Robot was an occasional guest at the compound where Misuari maintained a well-appointed suite.

Misuari's forces maintain an armory and ammunition stockpile in the compound.

Philippine Airlines suspended its service yesterday to Zamboanga City. Reports from Julie Alipata and Rolly A. San Juan, Noralyn Mustafa, Alexander Young and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Dona Pazzibigan in Manila

Alumni to hold AIM Masters at Riviera's Langer

THE ALUMNI Association of the Asian Institute of Management (AAAIM) will hold The Aim Masters, the association's year-end invitational amateur golf tournament at the Riviera Golf and Country Club on Dec. 27.

This was announced yesterday by AAAIM Board of Directors Chapman Laarni J. Goseco.

Goseco said the tournament's three-fold objective is to enhance fellowship among alumni and guests, help develop and promote amateur golf in the country and generate needed funds for the social and community development projects of AAAIM.

The AIM Masters is meant to be both friendly and challenging with two levels of competition at the Langer Course of the Riviera Golf Club in Silang, Cavite.

The primary competition is the team championship among the teams of select sponsors while the secondary competition is the individual championship among all the participants in stroke play.

The winning team will be presented with The AIM Masters 2001 championship cup while the individual champions will receive trophies and custom medals in a simple ceremony during the awards night where additional valuable prizes will be given to lucky winners.

To help ensure the success of the activity, sponsors are given a choice from a range of five sponsorship categories and the fielding of their own 4-man teams. AIM alumni golfers are afforded the additional choice of sponsoring their respective class teams or may simply choose to join the tournament individually.

Goseco said The AIM Masters is an opportunity for alumni to support the association in pursuing its goals relating to alumni affairs as well as its social and community development projects.

Admiral Luisito Fernandez, chair of the executive committee, called on all AIM alumni to join the tournament "in the spirit of fellowship and lasting camaraderie."

Alumni and sponsors may call the AAAIM office at 7501010, local 2104 for details and updates on The AIM Masters, or you may also visit www.aimalumniphil.org.



FERNANDEZ

Ong, Tiongco top Alabang golfest

FORMER commissioner Jose Ong and his guest partner Dominador Tiongco emerged the runaway overall winners of the smash-hit Alabang Country Club 20th anniversary tournament recently.

Days after being honored for his loyal 20-year stint as Alabang member, Ong went up the stage again on the final day of the festivities together with Tiongco to receive the top prize in the 36-hole tourney.

Ong and Tiongco finished eight points ahead of Eddie

Jacinto and Antonio Ortigas after scoring 52 in the best-ball and 83 in the aggregate—both of which proved to be the best score for the day—for a 135 total.

Smart Communications served as a co-presenter of the Alabang anniversary bash. Insular Life and the Golfers Club Share were major sponsors while Nissan Alabang, Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, H.A. Pastor Construction and the Bank of the Philippine Islands were area sponsors.

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GMA	1st Entertainment Showcase 2nd Kitchen Showcase 3rd Living Room Showcase	Julio R. Baduyot, Balara, Quezon City Renita M. Golosino, Kamuning, Q.C. Celestino Eugenio, Valenzuela City
NORTH LUZON	1st Entertainment Showcase 2nd Kitchen Showcase 3rd Living Room Showcase	Marlyn Retuta, Masingal, Ilocos Sur Rose Mae Liat, Centro 2 Luna, Isabela Conchita Ramos, Lingayen, Pangasinan
CENTRAL LUZON	1st Entertainment Showcase 2nd Kitchen Showcase 3rd Living Room Showcase	Ma. Alma S. dela Cruz, San Fernando, Pampanga Janneth R. Vegiga, Nueva Ecija Michell S. Orallo, Nueva Ecija
SOUTH LUZON 1	1st Entertainment Showcase 2nd Kitchen Showcase 3rd Living Room Showcase	Dulce S. Laganob, Dasmariñas, Cavite Lolita D. Acar, Lipa City, Batangas Eugenia C. Nario, Lipa City, Batangas
SOUTH LUZON 2	1st Entertainment Showcase 2nd Kitchen Showcase 3rd Living Room Showcase	Rubina Merced, Camarines Sur Doris M. Llabres, Buraguis, Legaspi City Macrina B. Ramirez, Candelaria, Quezon
WEST VISAYAS	1st Entertainment Showcase 2nd Kitchen Showcase 3rd Living Room Showcase	Evangeline Cordero, Balete, Aklan Ma. Eliza D. Tadiaque, Oton, Iloilo City Leticia Ofciar, San Carlos City
EAST VISAYAS	1st Entertainment Showcase 2nd Kitchen Showcase 3rd Living Room Showcase	Bernadeth V. Estrecho, Cebu City Annabel P. Alvarico, Tacloban City Shiela L. Villanuer, Bagong Buhay, Ormoc City
NORTH MINDANAO	1st Entertainment Showcase 2nd Kitchen Showcase 3rd Living Room Showcase	Zacarias M. Balingkit, Misamis Oriental Mark Ajero, Agusan del Norte Gemma Bongabong, Libertad, Butuan City
SOUTH MINDANAO	1st Entertainment Showcase 2nd Kitchen Showcase 3rd Living Room Showcase	Jenilyn Magallanes, San Miguel, Tagum City Irene Panes, Gen. Santos City Ernesto Nunal, Pisonanca, Zamboanga City

ISSUED BY:

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IMPORTANT: Grand draw is on December 15, 2001! Hurry! Send your entries on or before December 8, 2001 to join. The more entries you send, the more chances of winning the house of your dreams!

FOTOG'S TALE OF WOE

PSC now a garrison state?

A NEW policy at the Philippine Sports Commission now prohibits sportswriters and photographers from entering the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex along Vito Cruz St. in Manila without a written permit.

Or so it seemed. This was what Ernie U. Sarmiento, the INQUIRER's chief photographer, found out yesterday when he was sent to cover the Tru-Flex International Tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Sarmiento was barred from taking pictures of the event by the guard on duty when Sarmiento could not produce a written copy of a permit from the PSC allowing him to cover the event.

The guard told Sarmiento to secure the permit from the PSC's operations department.

A certain Baby Inosanto, claiming to be from the PSC's operations department, told Sarmiento that anyone from any newspaper trying to cover an event at the Rizal Complex must first secure a written permission from her office.

"That's a policy that has been in effect since the '80s yet," said Inosanto, who holds office at an air-conditioned cell at the second floor of the Rizal Complex. She said the directive came from a certain Rufino Geronimo.

"He is our boss," said Inosanto of Geronimo. "He's been with the PSC since the '80s yet."

When Sarmiento asked for a copy of the directive, Inosanto could not produce any.

"We are just following orders," she said.

I talked to Inosanto on the phone. When I asked her about the whereabouts of Geronimo, Inosanto replied: "He is in a meeting."

When reminded that the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex is not a membership club and both journalists and visitors need not secure a permit to enter its premises, Inosanto relented. She then allowed Sarmiento to cover the tennis event.

Unfortunately, when Sarmiento got inside the tennis complex, the match he was assigned to cover was already over.

"Just last week, I covered a big tennis tournament at Rizal and I could go in and out of the tennis center without any permit," raved Sarmiento. "What's happening to Philippine sports, Sir AI?" *AIS. Mendoza*

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Paeng Nepomuceno rolled a six-game total of 1,289 to break the SEA Games record of 1,235 and lead a 1-2 finish in the men's bowling singles at the XVI Manila Southeast Asian Games. Also today in 1995, Lizette Garcia beat Gigi Bessa, 2-0, to rule the Masters event of the 1995 national matchplay championship at the PSC Bowling Center.

Tolomia lifts Shark over Welcoat 5

GAMES TOMORROW

3:30 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs ICTSI Archers
5:30 p.m.—Blu Detergent vs Ateneo-Pioneer

BY DENNIS U. EROA

STEEL-NERVED Chester Tolomia atoned for an earlier miscue when he buried a buzzer-beating triple, powering defending champion Shark Energy Drink to a pulsating 78-76 victory over arch-rival Welcoat Paints last night in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Tolomia's magical triple came after he gifted Welcoat by fouling Ren Ren Ritualo in the act of shooting at the three-point territory, 6.4 seconds remaining and Shark ahead, 75-72. Shark's hopes further dimmed when team manager Raul Panilio was slapped a technical foul, giving the Paintmasters two more free throws plus ball possession.

Bucking the jeers of the Shark gallery, Ritualo, who finished with 27 points, missed just one of the five gift shots, 76-75, but Tolomia and his tireless teammates sprang one final surprise.

Playmaker Celino Cruz fumbled in the face of Shark's trapping defense leading to a recovery by Warren Ybanez, who found Tolomia all alone in the halfcourt. Tolomia dribbled to the right flank, letting go a triple that swished the net and stunned the Welcoat camp.

The day started with a similar cliffhanger as Ariel de Castro banged in a 12-footer, lifting Ana Freezers to an 87-85 squeaker over skidding Montaña Jewels. Ana finished its first round campaign with a 3-4 slate, while Montaña dropped to the cellar with 1-6.

De Castro, 6-foot-5, poured in 12 of his 14 points in the final quarter as the Freezer Kings furiously engaged the rallying Jewels in a shootout.

Blu Detergent holds the solo leadership with a 4-1 slate, followed by International Container Terminals Services Inc.-Archers with 3-1. Shark is in third spot with 4-2, followed by Welcoat with 3-2.

"It was a lucky break for us. I'm glad for Chester because he showed he can handle pressure," said Shark mentor Leo Austria, who hit the spotty officiating.

Shark's trapping defense and its defense over 6-foot-8 Yancy de Ocampo in the post worked wonders. Welcoat pointguards Cruz and Eugene Tan had trouble setting up the plays, while De Ocampo sweated for eight points.

Scores:

First Game

ANA 87—Capus 18, Pascual 16, De Castro 14, D. Mendoza 12, R. Mendoza 8, Tubid 7, Artadi 5, Villar 5, Flores 2, Torres 0.

MONTAÑA 85—Macapagal 19, Zamora 16, Gottenbos 11, David 9, Lao 9, Gatumbato 8, Dimaunahan 6, Alfad 5, Torrente 2, Lim 0.

Quarters: 29-21, 51-42, 68-60, 87-85.

Second Game

SHARK 78—Basildes 18, Tolomia 15, Sotto 13, Castro 12, Ybanez 10, Junio 5, Malabanan 2, Cole 2, Robinson 1, Rodriguez 0, Ortega 0.

WELCOAT 76—Ritualo 27, Encarnacion 10, Cruz 9, De Ocampo 8, Patrimonio 7, Tolentino 6, Tan 4, Canlas 3, Orfrecio 2, Manalo 0, Mamaciao 0.

Quarters: 18-20, 39-40, 57-63, 78-76.

SPORTSWATCH

Bacolod swimfest set

SWIMMING holds its last major event for the year with the staging of the National Age Group Swimming Championship in Bacolod from Nov. 30 to Dec. 1. More than 40 teams are expected to participate in the three-day event backed by Arena swimwear. Standouts will be sent to international age group competitions next year. National swimmers Mark Kalaw, Jenny Guerrero, Luica Dacanay and Liza Danila—all medalists in the last SEA Games—have confirmed their participation, according to Pasa secretary general and former Asian Games swimming champion Ral Rosario. Arena swimwear's Kristine Coronel said: "This is just the beginning of our involvement in sports development. We hope to do some more next year."

Army, Toronto clash

IT was a thrilling and fitting finale for the Rexona International Invitational beach football tournament at the Hey Jude resort in Boracay last weekend as Team Philippines-Army edged out a visiting Canadian-German team, 1-0, before a big crowd to win the championship. Army thus advanced to the finals together with the Toronto Castaways. Sgt. Greg Brillantes booted in the winning goal early in the second half and goalkeeper Tyrone Montes had some spectacular saves that preserved the victory for the RP-Army team, which was coached by Capt. Arnel Fernandez. Sponsors were San Miguel Super Dry, SBMA, Viva Mineral Water, Asian Spirit, FHM, and the local government headed by Mayor Dodong Cawaling.

Luzviminda derby up

THE FIRST Luzviminda Slasher Cup 6-Cock Derby will be held at the Rolygon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City on Dec. 10, 12, 15 and 17. Hosted by Buddy N. Robigado and Maj. Bobby P. Dormal, this derby has a guaranteed cash prize of P1.2 million plus a trophy to the champion. The minimum bet is P5,500. The hosts said a P50,000 bonus will be given to any entry who will register three wins in each elimination round. They also said the handler in this derby, with entries from all over the country, will be given P150,000. Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty said the fights will start at exactly 7 p.m. Call Rolygon office at 833-16-38 and 833-22-75 for reservations.

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



Bernardo, Gerry Cruz, Manny Jolson, Boy Marquez, Roehl Nadurata, Eddie Pacheco, Cristobal Ramas, Alberto Reynoso, Edgardo Roque, Joselino Ron and Jose Lagunson. The coach was Enrique Crane of multi-titled Ysmel Steel.

POC 'sins' tackled today

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit yesterday said he will make it a point that all the issues raised by athletics head Go Teng Kok will be on top of the agenda and that everything must be solved in today's POC general assembly meeting.

Dayrit promised a no-holds-barred meeting aimed at thrashing out every issue that blocks the POC from performing its task which is to prepare the country to the Asian Games next year.

"I will see to it that everybody will have a chance to speak before the general assembly," said Dayrit. "We have all the time in the world."

He will have to provide sufficient time for Go, who promised to enumerate the sins of the presidents of the weightlifting and cycling associations, whom the POC continues to recognize.

Go said NSA heads Rudy Sicat (weightlifting) and Ponciano Regalado (cycling) are being accused of embezzlement of public funds, among other complaints.

Sicat was voted off by the Philippine Weightlifting Association board two months ago and was replaced by Jaime Sebastian, who alleged that Sicat pocketed at least P.7 million of PWA funds from the Philippine Sports Commission.

Regalado was allegedly involved in missing cycling materials worth P6 million, according to a group of national cycling coaches, who approached Go for help.

But the POC continues to give its blessings to Sicat and Regalado, whom the Olympic body even re-appointed as Philippine Amateur Cycling Association president, alongside Danao, Cebu Mayor Ramonito Durano III as Paca chair.

But Durano had earlier turned down the appointment and even expressed disappointment over the POC's apparent haste to settle the association's leadership issue.

Go said he will also question the POC's decision to let Freddie Jalasco stay as POC board member — and sit in crucial arbitration committee meetings — even if he was already ousted as basketball chief months ago.

"It is our desire to bring these up to the general assembly, which is the supreme authority," said Dayrit. "I just hope that every party involved will respect the decision of the general assembly."

P.1M staked in Tuason Cup

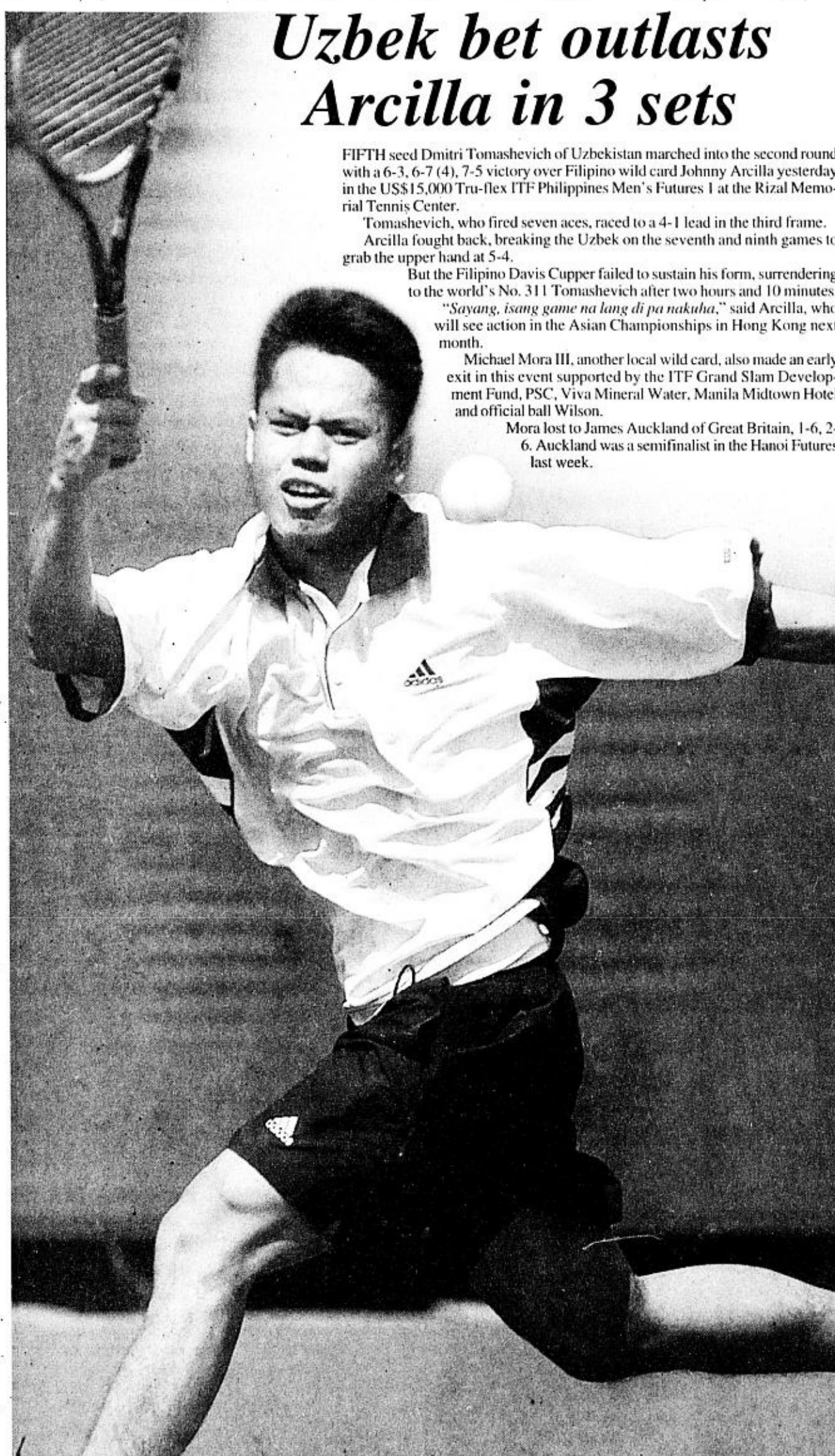
A TOTAL pot of P100,000 is at stake when the biggest gathering of motorsports stars dubbed as the 2nd Arthur Tuason Memorial Cup Karting reels off Dec. 1-2 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

JP Tuason, president of the organizing Tuason Racing Project, said the event's main objective is to develop young talents as his father Arthur Tuason envisioned it to be.

"My father wanted to pass on his legacy by encouraging young racing enthusiasts to further develop their skills. This is why the main focus of the event is the Novice class where we give these virtual unknowns the competitive exposure they need to achieve their dreams," said Tuason.

Some 36 racers will vie for the Novice title and the grand prize of P30,000 cash in the event presented by the Tuason Racing Project, Standard Insurance and Magic 89.9 in cooperation with Hanjin Shipping, Carmona Circuit Philippines, Kart Plaza, Demvells Enterprises, Metro Makati Motors Association Inc., Trapik.com, Henry's Restaurant, PIKA and Rallye Magwheels.

JP and his indefatigable wife Jeannette are hoping to raise more funds this year for the leukemia-stricken beneficiaries of Leukemic Indigent Fund Endowment or LIFE.



ARCILLA: "Sayang, isang game na lang di pa nakuha."

ERNIE SARMIENTO

Uzbek bet outlasts Arcilla in 3 sets

FIFTH seed Dmitri Tomashevich of Uzbekistan marched into the second round with a 6-3, 6-7 (4), 7-5 victory over Filipino wild card Johnny Arcilla yesterday in the US\$15,000 Tru-flex ITF Philippines Men's Futures I at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Tomashevich, who fired seven aces, raced to a 4-1 lead in the third frame. Arcilla fought back, breaking the Uzbek on the seventh and ninth games to grab the upper hand at 5-4.

But the Filipino Davis Cupper failed to sustain his form, surrendering to the world's No. 311 Tomashevich after two hours and 10 minutes. "Sayang, isang game na lang di pa nakuha," said Arcilla, who will see action in the Asian Championships in Hong Kong next month.

Michael Mora III, another local wild card, also made an early exit in this event supported by the ITF Grand Slam Development Fund, PSC, Viva Mineral Water, Manila Midtown Hotel and official ball Wilson.

Mora lost to James Auckland of Great Britain, 1-6, 2-6. Auckland was a semifinalist in the Hanoi Futures last week.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA—Sacramento Kings vs Houston Rockets at 9 a.m. (r—5 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN

US NCAA: Illinois Fighting Illini vs Maryland Terrapins at 12 noon (r—midnight), Duke Blue Devils vs Iowa Hawkeyes at 2 p.m. on ESPN

BILLIARDS: 2001 WPBA Classic Tour, Semifinal #2 at 8 a.m. (r) on ESPN

GOLF: 2001 Straits Cup, Day Three Highlights at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

TENNIS: Seniors Open, Cathay Pacific Champions Tennis 2001 Finals at 11 p.m. on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Truck challenge not an ordinary race

OVER 60 participants have confirmed their participation in the 1st Philippine Tough Truck Challenge set from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at the Fort Bonifacio Global City. Brian Diaz, president of the organizing Manila Off-Roaders Inc. (Mori), said the positive response of big-name personalities assured a successful staging of the event.

Red Horse Beer signed up as the main presenter

while Caltex-Delo and Tide came in as major sponsors along with Ride, 199 Off Road House and Premiere Ready Mix in cooperation with the National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders Inc. (Nasfor), headed by Ramon Toong.

"We're very happy over the response we got, and we are very thankful that these companies supported us and believe in the potentials of the event and how it

will also help in promoting the quality of their products," said Diaz.

The 1st Philippine Tough Truck Challenge deviates itself from other forms of racing as it does not focus mainly on speed but more on teamwork, test of the machine and strategy as the challenge squeezes out the participants' ingenuity, wits and skills in overcoming the obstacles of the race.

Why not Jun B as RP team manager?

recommendations with slight modifications.

A protégé of successful sportsman-businessman and San Miguel Corp. big boss Danding Cojuangco, Jacobs was the coach of the Philippine team that won the ABC (Asian Basketball Confederation) crown in 1986; coach of the powerhouse Northern Cement team which won the 1985 PBA Reinforced Conference by a 4-0 sweep; and bench tactician when the Philippines beat China in the Asian Youth championship in 1982. In short, Jacobs knows his basketball business.

With Jacobs now officially named as coach, the next question is: Who should be the team manager of the Asiad-bound quintet? In reply, many have submitted the names of several individuals of substantial means and goodwill, including that of Jun B, who was

recommended precisely because he has done a terrific job as commissioner of Asia's first play-for-play league. Since he took over the position in 1994, the league has weathered many storms, including the crippling economic crisis, to make the PBA the most profitable and most dominant sports organization in Philippine sports history. And being the most acceptable person to the members of the PBA board, the more Jun B should be considered. Besides, it is difficult to quarrel with success, *di ba?*

SPORTS TRIVIA. To refresh our memory, here are the members of the Philippine team that won the 1962 Asian Games basketball title in Jakarta, the last Asiad championship won by the Filipinos: Carlos Loyzaga, captain; Engracio Arayas, Kurt Bachmann, Narciso

Kobe fined for verbal abuse

NEW YORK—Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant was fined \$7,500 by the NBA for verbally abusing a game official and failing to leave the court promptly following his ejection. Bryant was ejected with 8:04 remaining in the Lakers' 106-90 victory over Golden State at Staples Center on Friday. The fine was announced Monday by Stu Jackson, NBA senior vice president of basketball operations. AP

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Sprewell powers Knicks

NEW YORK—Latrell Sprewell tied his season-high of 29 points Monday, scoring New York's final eight, as the Knicks defeated the Atlanta Hawks 88-83. The Knicks, with Marcus Camby back in their lineup, played strong defense down the stretch, to hold Atlanta to just 28 points in the second half and one field goal over the final 6 1/2 minutes. Complete results: Knicks 88, Hawks 83; Pistons 105, Magic 100; Grizzlies 98, Kings 94; Suns 111, Jazz 104, OT. AP

ASIAN GAMES

Big J wants Pinoy as RP 5 coach

Brain's colorless

NOT one race owns the world. Not the Americans. Not the Europeans. Not the Asians. Not even the Martians. Or the Talibans.

We all own the world.

We are the world. Ron Jacobs is an American. So are Norman Black and Tim Cone.

Robert Jaworski is a Filipino, although his father is an American.

What do they have in common? They coach basketball teams.

What else?

Black, Cone and Jaworski have coached RP Teams to the Asian Games. Jacobs will next coach the quintet in 2002.

Is Jacobs fit to coach the team? Of course.

Jacobs has an unassailable track record. Asian Youth champion in 1982. ABC champion in 1986. His style has revolutionized Philippine coaching. Many of the PBA coaches today look up to him as a mentor.

Jun Bernardino took a bold move in appointing Jacobs coach of the RP Team to the 2002 Asiad. He could court the ire of ultra-nationalists. I say "ultra-nationalists" to differentiate them from the nationalists.

The nationalists are the real patriots; the ultra-nationalists are bigots.

Bernardino is a nationalist because, when he named Jacobs, he took to heart the country's well-being. He knew Jacobs could make us Asiad champions again.

The ultra-nationalist would think otherwise. He would reject Jacobs not because Jacobs isn't a good coach, but because Jacobs is not a Filipino. That's not being pro-Filipino. In reality, that's being anti-Filipino.

You want the Filipino to really prosper, to become champion, you should think globally. What differentiates Jacobs from the Filipino?

His color is fair, mine is brown. So what? His eyes are bluish, mine are blackish. So what?

His English accent is American, mine is Filipino. So what?

His nose is well-chiseled, mine is not. So what?

His brain is no different than mine. Whether you are black or white, brown or yellow, your brains have the same color. In the end, it's how you use your brain that matters. Jesus Christ is not a Filipino; neither is he an American. But he is our Lord Almighty. Our God. Belief knows no color; creed knows no race.

Bernardino anti-Filipino?

Not if you are pro-Filipino.

Bernardino's move is the most pro-Filipino in the sense that he wants us Filipinos to become Asiad champions again after we had last won the crown some four decades ago in 1962. His choice of Jacobs attests to that.

So quit that crap, fellas. We are not only Filipinos. We are all human beings. Children of God.

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

LBC, Negros start title quest in MBA

GAMES TODAY

USLS Bacolod City
3 p.m.—Negros vs Cebuana Lhuillier
La Salle Lipa
5:30 p.m.—LBC Batangas vs Andok's San Juan

BY ROY LUARCA

WHETHER being top qualifiers carry any weight will be determined when LBC Batangas and Negros begin their quest for conference titles against equally tough rivals at separate venues today in the MBA Second Phase.

The LBC Batangas Blades battle the Andok's San Juan Knights at 5:30 p.m. at the La Salle Lipa Sentrum in Lipa City following the Negros Slashers-Cebuana Lhuillier Gems collision at 3 p.m. at the USLS Gym in Bacolod City.

The Blades topped the Northern Conference eliminations while the Slashers reigned supreme in the Southern Conference, giving them the homecourt advantage and the luxury of not having to go through the semifinals.

Fresh from a nine-day respite, the Blades and the Slashers would be facing opponents who have survived the semis.

The Blades and the Slashers should be in for a close fight as the Knights and the Gems were able to split their elimination round assignments.

Playing before the hometown crowd, however, may yet give the Blades and the Slashers the morale boost needed in the best-of-five series.

"A tough series. This is going to be a test of character for both teams, more so for us," said Blades coach Nash Racela.

LBC Batangas will be powered by Romel Adducul, Eddie Laure and Alex Compton, who are among the leading candidates for MVP honors this year.

Archers need 3 OTs to prevail

MARK Cardona fired 40 points but De La Salle University-Manila needed three overtimes to subdue Polytechnic University of the Philippines, 116-112, late Monday in the National Capital Region Athletic Association at the Lyceum Gym.

Cardona, who was pivotal in the Green Archers' fourth straight title in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines recently, was a steady force even as they failed to finish off the Maroons in regulation twice. BJ Manalo contributed 17 points to backstop Cardona.

The victory allowed the Green Archers to tie idle Lyceum of the Philippines on top of Group B momentarily as Olivarez College, a 90-60 winner over FEATI, and Emilio Aguinaldo College, which scored a 58-55 decision over AMA Computer College, tied their victims at 1-1 in this tournament made possible by Pagcor, Mikasa, Splash, Pepsi-Cola and Department of Agrarian Reform.

DLSU-Manila, Lyceum and Rizal Technological University gun for second straight wins while Group A leader St. Francis shoot for flawless 3-0 card today with seven-game bill at the Philippine Maritime Institute gym.

BY JUNE NAVARRO

IF Sen. Robert Jaworski could have his way, he would rather name a true-blooded Filipino as head coach of the RP basketball team in the Asian Games than San Miguel Beer consultant Ron Jacobs.

"I'm not trying to spark some sort of animosity but I think it's high time that we develop our character as Filipinos so I suppose I'll stick with a Filipino coach," Jaworski yesterday told the INQUIRER.

"I'm not saying he (Jacobs) is a bad coach. After all, he had won championships but a Filipino coach guided by an American consultant such as Jacobs is much better," he added.

Although he didn't name the coach of his choice, Jaworski said Filipino coaches have what it takes to prepare a competitive battle plan against Asia's best especially China.

Waxing nostalgic, he said the 1990 PBA-backed national team which he steered to a silver-medal finish was in fact ill-prepared but came close enough to break through the Chinese juggernaut.

"That silver glitters like gold. Because even before we faced China we knew we will have a hard time beating them for the Chinese possess a nationalistic spirit," said Jaworski, known as the Living Legend in local basketball.

"It's the nationalistic mind-set of the Chinese that is hard to beat."

Among Jaworski's cagers back then was Ginebra coach Allan Caidic, Alvin Patrimonio of Purefoods, Jerry Codifera of Talk N Text, Pop Cola's Jojo Lastimosa and the legendary Ramon Fernandez.

"Long preparation is the key besides from selecting the best materials as far as talent and attitude are concerned," Jaworski said.

Jacobs eyes Taulava, Menk

NINE months.

That's how long head coach Ron Jacobs will prepare the PBA-backed national team to win the gold in the Asian Games next year.

With the program and calendar of events drawn up by the PBA laid down before him, all Jacobs has to do is select the 12 best players in the land to form the RP squad for the Pusan, South Korean joust.

"I don't care what size and where they came from. Height won't give us an advantage, same thing with speed.

What we need are 12 dedicated men who could win the gold," Jacobs told sportswriters yesterday at the weekly PSA Forum.

Jacobs named 6-foot-9 Asi Taulava of Talk N Text as a prime prospect. The San Miguel Beer consultant also mentioned Eric Menk of Tanduay, Shell's Chris Jackson, San Miguel's Danny Ildefonso, siblings Danny (SMB) and Andy Seigle (Purefoods) and surprisingly Mike Cortez, a De La Salle University standout in the UAAP.

June Navarro



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SMB seeks clincher vs Shell; crucial Game 3 for Pop, SLR

GAMES TODAY

(PhilSports)
5:05p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Pop Cola
7:10p.m.—Shell vs San Miguel

SAN Miguel Beer tries to gain another Finals stint when it battles Shell today in the PBA Governors Cup at the PhilSports Arena.

Holding a two-game edge against the Turbo Chargers, the Beermen are all poised to wrap up their best-of-five semifinal series at 7:10 tonight.

Sta. Lucia Realty aims for a go-ahead win against Pop Cola in the curtain-raiser to break a one-game standoff in their own semifinal match.

The Beermen, with Danny Seigle activated from the injury list, beat the Turbo Chargers in Game 1, 89-84, before cruising to a commanding 2-0 lead with an 83-70 victory in Game 2.

Another victory tonight will spell another Finals' trip for the Beermen, who appeared in seven of the last eight championship showdowns in the league since 1999.



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- Watch out for the new SMART Gold Subscription Plans.
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- All barkada/group SIM swappers should fill out a group raffle coupon with their names, addresses, SMART Buddy/Gold cellphone numbers and signatures.
- Group SIM Swappers can submit their coupons at authorized TSI branches, SMART Wireless Centers, or to any SMART/TSI representative in SMART/TSI sponsored events, mall events and school blitzes.
- Only TSI agents who are authorized by TSI/SMART to man in SMART/TSI sponsored events, mall events or school blitzes are allowed to conduct the SIM swap.
- A total of four (4) barkadas will win a trip to Singapore for five to watch the MTV Asia Awards plus pocket money of P25,000.00 (for each barkada member in the raffle draw on January 15, 2002).
- SMART will only shoulder the expenses of the trip for a maximum of 5 persons per winning group. The prize is convertible to cash (P200,000.00).
- Winners will be notified through a voice call, text message, and registered mail.
- Prizes may be claimed at Ace Saatchi and Saatchi, 10th floor, Feliza Bldg., 108 Herrera St., Legaspi Village Makati City.
- Winners must present the winning raffle stub, notification letter, valid ID, and their SMART SIM cards. Winners of the trip to Singapore must also present birth certificates and passports.
- All employees of SMART Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation and their respective ad agencies as well as relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from the promo.

* SMART will only shoulder the cost for a maximum of five barkada members. Winning barkada with member/s under 18 years old must be accompanied by a guardian. If there are already 5 members in the winning barkada, SMART will not shoulder the cost for the guardian. Winning group with 4 members 18 years old & above may bring along one more companion who is of legal age also.

* Individual SIM swappers from November 20, 2001 - January 10, 2002 may also win P20,000.00 on the January 15, 2002 raffle draw.

* Customer Care Officers, TSI agents and TSI counter representatives may also win P30,000.00 cash prize if they facilitated the group SIM swap of the winning group SIM swappers.

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Kind strangers will help anyone, celebrities or not A26

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

9 more suspects hunted for Cinco slay A26

'Justice for Carlson!'



LEDESMA

Kuh Ledesma becomes fire victim again

BY PHILIP TUBEZA AND LEAH SALTERIO
A ONE-HOUR fire razed the Republic of Malate, a popular bar and restaurant owned by singer Kuh Ledesma on A. Mabini Street in Malate, Manila.

KUHEDESMA/A26

BY AGNES E. DONATO

WOMEN'S groups yesterday demanded justice for former beauty queen and actress Maria Teresa Carlson, who died in a fall from her 23rd-floor condominium unit, and called for the immediate passage of a bill against the abuse of women in intimate relationships.



CARLSON

In a rally in front of the Commission on Human Rights, about 100 women belonging to various organizations blamed the government for Carlson's death and the abuse of women in their homes because of what they described as its failure to protect women from domestic violence.
On Friday, Carlson, wife of former Ilocos Norte governor and former congressman Rodolfo Fariñas, fell from her condo unit on Annapolis Street in Greenhills, San Juan. She was 38.
In 1996, she came out in media and accused Fariñas of beating her up during the nine years that they had been together, even when she had been 8-and-a-half months pregnant with their sixth child.

JUSTICE/A26

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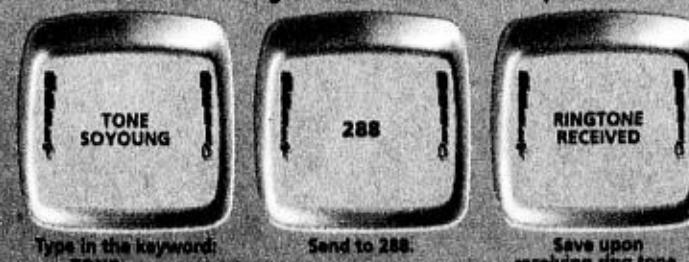
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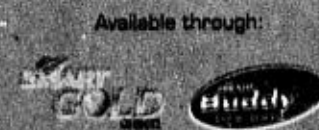


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Some questions we should ask coach Ron Jacobs

(SPECIAL TREAT: If you're free, treat yourself to an evening of music at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros. Featuring the 3rd San Agustin International Music Festival tonight is Spanish organist Javier Artigas, director of the Conservatory of Music of Murcia, Spain. In the second part, the Mañaluyong Children's Chorus, accompanied by the PPO Chamber Orchestra, will present a variety of villancicos or Christmas carols. For the grand finale tomorrow, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra will interpret Mahler's 5th Symphony, under the baton of Maestro Ruggero Barbieri.)

THERE'S no denying that Ron Jacobs, newly appointed Philippine national basketball coach, has the best credentials among the candidates.

He had beaten the feared Chinese national squad more than once.

But here's the first question that must be asked Jacobs: Does he sincerely believe he has the local talents to conquer the Chinese?

Mr. Jacobs would most likely reply: "China is not the lone problem. First we must also study how to beat

South Korea."

Add to that short list Lebanon, the biggest revelation in the last Asian basketball championship where it gave China a hell of a time, including a final-minute brawl, before yielding the crown.

Does Jacobs have the local material to stop China?

Expect the national coach to ask for some clarification.

If you mean pure Pinoy talents, he'd most likely admit that we don't have it.

Anyway, granting his appointment doesn't run into any hitch, Jacobs is the sort of mentor who could be seeing more than enough of the Chinese, and the Koreans, and the Lebanese, and all the other possible title contenders.

Not many people know this but coach Ron's past successes had hinged on two factors that both start with the letter S.

Surveillance and sleuthing.

Yes, if he has not changed basic tactics—and I can bet he hasn't—Jacobs would hire extra scouts.

Not only that. He would also make a full stock of tapes featuring the latest

BARE EYE

Recall
Trinidad



games of would-be opponents, mainly China and South Korea.

The big problem in the previous Asiad preparation, Jacobs had been overheard once as saying, is that they dug up hard, they scouted and studied the Chinese team, and totally overlooked the South Koreans.

South Korea predictably swamped the RP team in the Bangkok 1998 Asian Games.

Regarding the game tapes of top Asiad cage powers, Jacobs would predictably spend all his waking hours to pore over them, dissecting strengths, weaknesses, all the salient details.

Yes, he's the sort of hard court detective who would sit before the TV set until the wee hours in order to make

sure that no single dot escapes scrutiny.

Jacobs is at liberty to put in at least two naturalized imports, as he had done with Jeff Moore and Dennis Still in winning the 1986 ABC men's crown in Kuala Lumpur.

With no naturalized reinforcements, Jacobs could turn to the Fil-Ams, like Eric Menk, Danny Seigle, to name only two, for some necessary fortification.

Anyway, for its part, the PBA is all set to adopt all international amateur rules specified in the Fiba book, starting the first conference next year.

Still, the biggest test would center on the adoption of the zone defense, which had been promptly banned starting the inaugural PBA conference in 1975, because pro league founding fathers had suspected the choking fence to be extremely boring.

For a little review, Jacobs owns a sterling record against China.

From what I remember, he hasn't lost to the feared Chinese national squad. He beat them in 1982 Asian Youth tournament stage here. He

dumped the Chinese team in the 1984 World Club qualifying series in Ipoh, Malaysia to earn a ticket to the 1985 World Club championship in Gerona, Spain where Samboy Lim scored 34 fantastic points in beating Banco di Roma.

Coach Ron won't have either Samboy or gunman Allan Cadie around.

But what's this we hear that Cadie could be reactivated to join the national team tryouts in January?

Jacobs is definitely in dire need of a trusted hothand. The sharp outside gun is the most effective weapon against the zone.

Unfortunately, nobody among local talents could approximate Cadie's legendary sharpness from outside.

Which simply meant that, weird as it had sounded when first bruited about, the proposed reactivation of Cadie for next year's Asiad may not be a wild shot after all.

Of course, the biggest test for coach Ron would be how to ram the zone dis-

cipline into the sickeningly individualistic system of Pinoy pro cagers.

For one, the zone, an otherwise poisonous concoction top Asian rivals have immunized themselves against, could prove unpalatable at the start.

Can the national team, with less than a year to shift, be made to drink and live by the zone and still survive in one piece?

How, for example, can Jacobs change the national basketball philosophy which dictates that the ball is there for hogging and dribbling and not for passing to the open, moving teammate?

Maybe they would have to use a deflated ball in training in order to get back into the zone groove?

Another thing: What system would Jacobs use in order for national team members, long used to lazy, rich-man style of play in the PBA, to sacrifice and live by the deathly discipline required in Asian championships?

Will coach Ron propose momentary priesthood for each and every national team member?

Pray that some of the drastic changes will not prove unbearable for our over-rated superstar millionaires.

9 more suspects hunted for Cinco slay

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

AUTHORITIES are hunting down nine suspects, including a former soldier, for the murder of Commission on Elections director Velma Cinco, according to a high-ranking investigator.

Supt. Frederico Castro, spokesperson of Task Force C-5 (Comelec-Cinco), said investigators were trying to get background information on the nine suspects

as well as pictures to match them with police sketches of the two gunmen provided by a witness.

"This is a major breakthrough because we have narrowed down our list of suspects," Castro said. "Once the gunmen are positively identified, we will then move on to the mastermind."

Some of the suspects were allegedly linked to a former Comelec official. An NBI source said Cinco's kill-

ing was "job-related."

The task force, a joint undertaking of the Western Police District and the National Bureau of Investigation, now has sketches of the suspects after a male witness approached investigators on Saturday and described the gunmen.

Cinco was ambushed on Nov. 20 at the corner of Pedro Gil and Eden streets in Sta. Ana, Manila. She was on her way to work in her red Kia Pride (TDR 779) with

her son Carlo and sister Marian S. Jayme.

Castro said the witness was standing at the Shell gas station on the corner of Tejeron and Pedro Gil streets about 7 a.m., or 40 minutes before the suspects ambushed Cinco. Cinco, 62, was shot four times in the head and body. Carlo was hit in the right shoulder while Jayme was unhurt.

Castro said the task force is looking at three possible angles in the Cinco murder: Cinco's alleged quarrel with her

predecessor, Angelina Matibag; a labor row involving casual employees, whom Cinco allegedly did not rehire when she took over the education and information department; and an extramarital affair between two of Cinco's employees, which the victim tried to stop.

Castro said police recovered five empty shells and four slugs at the crime scene. Investigators are now trying to check if the slugs were fired from the

gun of Lavern Mark Manzano, a former security aide of Matibag.

"But I don't think we should be over-optimistic about that," Castro said. "Licensed guns are not used in professional killings. The gunman expertly used his gun. But let us wait for the results of the ballistic tests if they match." The NBI released Manzano after he proved that his gun was licensed. But Castro said Manzano remains a suspect in the case.

Shabu grandma gets life in jail

A PASAY court sentenced to life imprisonment Pungadongan Mama, 57, for trying to smuggle out nearly half a kilo of shabu which she hid in her underwear at the Manila Domestic Airport in July 2000.

Judge Eleuterio Guenero also ordered Mama, a resi-

dent of Molundo, Lanao del Sur, to pay a P500,000 fine.

Airport authorities caught Mama in possession of 464.99 grams of shabu contained in plastic sachets as she was about to board a Palawan-bound plane on July 15, 2000, court records showed. *Christian V. Esguerra*

NAIA 3-PIATCO DEAL:

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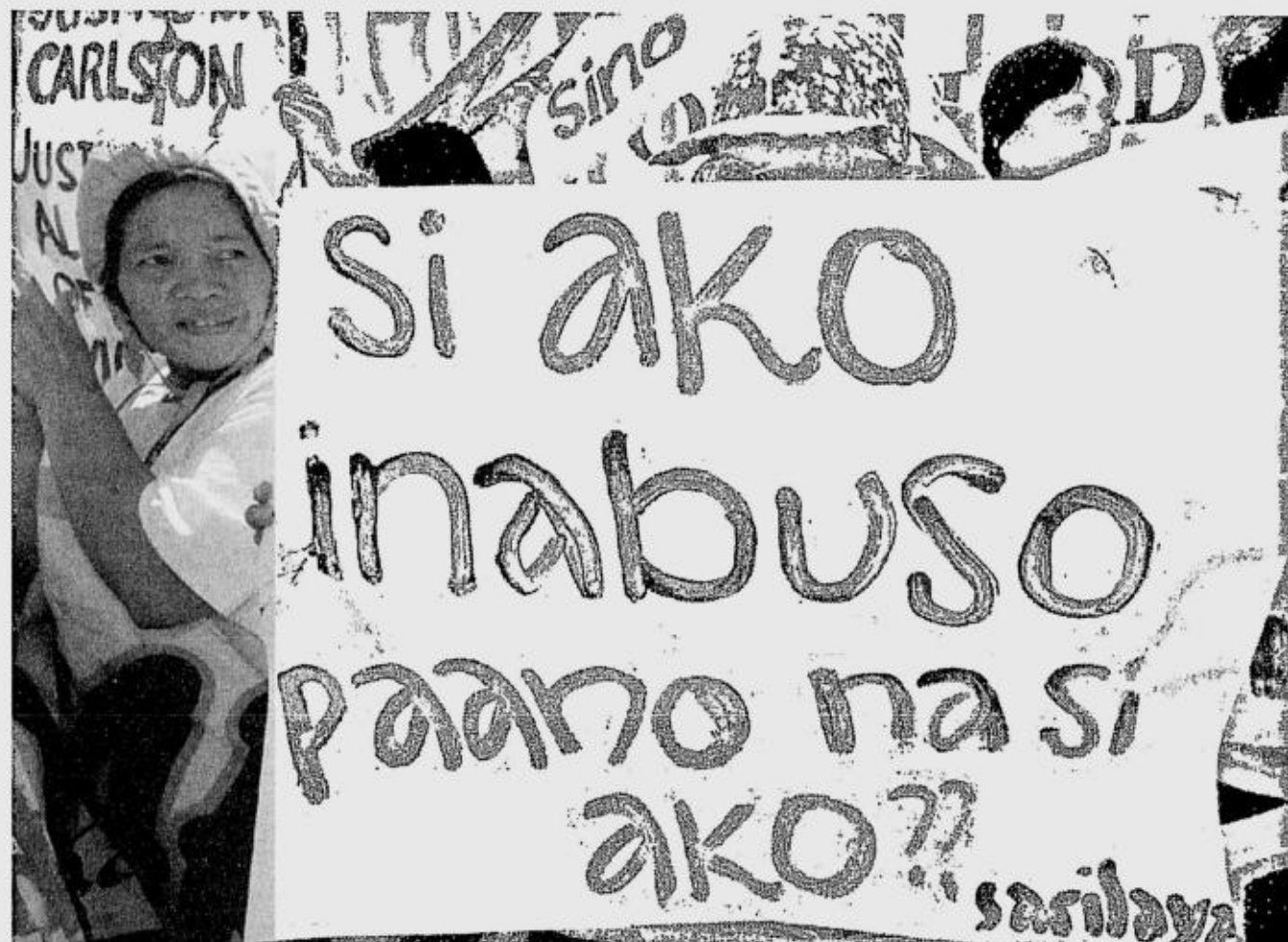
Lucio Tan's consortium tried to hoodwink the government with a P135 Million Build, Operate and Transfer deal for NAIA 3.

PIATCO offered the government a P17.75 Billion deal under the same terms.

Only monopolists will stand in the way of a transaction that is clearly advantageous to the Filipino people.



NAIA 3, para sa mamamayan, di para sa illan.



MEMBERS of different groups call for support for the proposed bill against abuse of women in intimate relationships (AWIR). JOAN BONDOC

'Justice for Carlson!'

(From page A25)

The women's group Kalakasan tried to rescue her from Fariñas the same year after she first sought their help in 1993. But Carlson later retracted her allegations of spousal abuse against Fariñas and reconciled with him.

Lawyer Claire Luczon, of the legal assistance group WomenLEAD, said the prevalence of domestic violence was partly caused by the absence of a law that penalizes the abuse of women in intimate relationships (AWIR).

While there are laws in the Penal Code that may be applied to abused women such as victims of physical injuries, homicide or murder, there is no specific law addressing the case of women battered by their intimate partner, Luczon said.

Aurora, Quezon Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo re-filed a bill seeking the criminalization of violence against women in the family at the beginning of the 12th Congress. But the bill has yet to be taken up.

"All over the country, we know that there are more women suffering in silence inside their homes," said a statement from the newly formed Task Force Justice for Maria Teresa Carlson and All Abused Women. "Not a few end up losing their lives, like Maria Teresa." During the rally, Bayan Muna party-list

Rep. Lisa Masa vowed to push for the passage of the Anti-AWIR bill, of which she is the co-author.

The Anti-AWIR bill seeks to re-orient Filipinos that domestic violence is not just a matter between couples, but a "public crime," said WomenLEAD's Luczon. Women abusers will also be penalized under the bill.

Commission on Human Rights Chair Aurora Navarrete Recifia said the agency would help drumbeat the call for the passage of the Anti-AWIR bill. She said the CHR was willing to cooperate in the investigation of domestic violence cases, but she urged the complainants to present enough evidence and witnesses to strengthen their cases.

Recifia recalled that the CHR archived its investigation of the reported beatings of Carlson by Fariñas in 1996 on the recommendation of investigators from the CHR sub-office in Vigan, Ilocos Norte. The investigators had said in their report to CHR that "nothing can be done on the (Carlson) case in the meantime," since all the information obtained from the Fariñas couple's neighbors, relatives and doctors was "all hearsay and second-hand."

No record of Carlson's confinement and medical treatment arising from the beatings was found in hospitals and clinics in the Laong City where Carlson lived with Fariñas, according to the CHR report.

But Recifia denied that Fariñas influenced its investigation. "We did our best," she maintained. "It is the people who knew what was happening who should be held responsible."

During the rally, the women's group Kalakasan furnished reporters a copy of Carlson's handwritten letter dated October 1996 requesting help from the organization.

Carlson wrote: "I have for the past 13 years been living and eventually married to a man who is a politician from the North (Ilocos Norte).... I would like to be able to leave this marriage that I have been trapped in. My husband has for the past years brutally been beating up on me."

Carlson also related in the letter that she was subjected to water torture so that there would be no visible signs of abuse. She also wrote of her terrible fear of her husband. "My husband is Gov. Rodolfo C. Fariñas and I fear him terribly so please do not let him know I've written unless you can be sure of getting me away from him first."

Carlson signed the letter "Maria Fariñas" and even affixed to it her left and right thumb marks.

Kalakasan had kept records of Carlson's case, which told a horrifying tale of torture the former beauty queen endured for almost a decade in the hands of Fariñas every time he was drunk or under the influence of illegal drugs.

Kuh Ledesma becomes...

(From page A25)

This is the second time that Ledesma has become a fire victim. In 1992, fire also ravaged her Music Museum, a theater-style restaurant in Greenhills, San Juan.

Supt. Manolo Martinez, Ermita police chief, said the blaze completely burned down the two-story restaurant that is also known as Roma.

Martinez said a waiter, Patrick Talasik, 26, was treated at the Ospital ng Maynila for a wound in the left arm.

Talasik reportedly broke a glass window in the restaurant so he could get out of the burning building.

Martinez said the blaze began at 4:33 p.m. in the ground-floor kitchen and quickly spread to the second floor and the disco at the back.

The fire reached the fifth alarm and was declared under control around 5:30 p.m. It was finally put out at 5:45 p.m., Martinez said.

He said the blaze might have started due to faulty electrical wiring in the kitchen.

Roma housed the Good Earth Chinese restaurant and a dance club and concert hall on the ground floor, and Survival Café and a game room on the second floor.

Music Museum was a Las Vegas-

type theme restaurant with a theater and a gallery of entertainers' memorabilia. Ledesma owned it with Precy Florentino.

The memorabilia included Nora Aunor's "Tawag ng Tanghalan" trophy, Randy Santiago's first jacket, Gary Valenciano's first dancing shoes, the first recording contract of the Apo Hiking Society trio and Lisa Macuja's first ballet shoes.

Music Museum was the venue for many launching concerts and major performances of several artists.

Ledesma was rehearsing inside Music Museum when the fire broke out. The only thing she was able to save was Aunor's trophy.

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'Debate' leaves other programs arguing over who's second best

WHEN pioneering GMA 7 started doing its late-night newscast in Filipino, other networks followed suit.

When GMA launched the interactive public affairs program, "Debate," its rival network ABS-CBN tried to come up with a similar program. But "Debate" has become the most talked-about public affairs program, keeping viewers glued to the lively and often heated discussion every Thursday night. Other debate shows pale in comparison.

Its hosts, **Oscar Orbos** and **Winnie Monsod**, are both fearless in their opinions.

"You cannot be contemplative and philosophical in this kind of show," Monsod maintains. "We have to keep the discussion snappy and fast."

Orbos and Monsod have a certain chemistry on TV that makes for an engaging exchange of ideas.

"It helps that we've known each

other for a long time," Monsod says. "Oca was my *inaanak* during his wedding 25 years ago. That was a milestone in my life. I was flattered that he got me. I said yes right away. But at the same time, there was the realization that I had just crossed the line."

"Before we discuss anything on the show, we vote on the subject and decide on what side we should take," Orbos explains. "Sometimes, the audience gets carried away but the guests can be controlled."

"We disagree," he says of himself and Monsod. "She has her own position, I have mine. But we don't quarrel over what we think."

Part of the success of the show is its trend-setting and computerized tele-voting system, through which viewers respond to the poll question for the night.

Lately, "Debate" has been going remote and airing from campuses.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio



"We want to do it more often," Monsod says. "We had a great time at Ateneo."

Monsod commends the program's "young, talented, imaginative, creative and dedicated staff, who never fails to come up with ideas to make the format more flexible."

"Debate," Thursdays, 11:30 p.m. on GMA, celebrates three years of straight talk on Nov. 29.

Asked about the other programs trying to imitate them, Monsod remarks, "Imitation is the best form of flattery and competition always makes for better performance anywhere. You don't ever want to be complacent."

Sold-out show

IMELDA Marcos and **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** on the same stage?

This happens only in the stand-up comedy show, "Teyssi @ Twaynti," where the versatile, irreverent **Tessie Tomas** treats her audience to comic impersonations of the former first lady and the President.

Tessie resurrects Meldita and introduces a new character, **Gloria Aray-Ko**, in her sold-out anniversary show which will have a repeat tonight at Music Museum.

We had a grand time laughing at Tessie's hilarious comic impersonations the first time "Teyssi @ Twaynti" was staged. It was a riotous night as the first lady of stand-up comedy returned to the live stage.

It has been a spell since Tessie has had a stand-up comedy act. When she became a regular TV talent—with shows like "Teyssi ng Tahanan," "Abangan ang Susunod na Kabanata," its sequel, "Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata," and the current weekly lifestyle program, "Feel at Home"—Tessie gave up live performances. Fortunately, that was only temporarily.

In "Teyssi @ Twaynti," Tessie proves she hasn't lost her touch as she keeps her audience in stitches in a no-holds-barred show.

She also comes up with another new character, **Cotton Bud**, a spoof of Rosebud, a.k.a. **Mary Ong**.

Meldita is also given a new "look" with a **Jolina Magdangal**-inspired outfit.

Tessie also revives her memorable characters like starlet **Bonnie Buendia**, who finds an unexpected nemesis in **Miss Tika**, the "starlet of the new millennium."

Tessie displays her ad-libbing talent in a series of "woman-to-woman" improvisations featuring **Mama Bel** and **Puppa** (spoofing the often-controversial mother and daughter tandem of **Annabelle Rama** and **Ruffa Gutierrez**), **Krissie** and **Inee** (former presidential daughters **Kris Aquino** and **Imee Marcos**), and **Nora** and **Vilma**.

What is even funnier is the battle of network "divas," where Tessie as **Mel Dyango** is joined by comedians **Jon Santos** as **Korina Sanchez** and **John Lapus** as **Karen Dapalang**. Their *tarayan* is a much-awaited segment and is also one of the most-applauded portions.

As **Cotton Bud**, a Chinese-looking Tessie wears a glittering cheongsam and talks about her controversial association with **John Cuatro Campos** and **Ping Lactum**.

Boy Abunda makes a guest appearance and interviews **Gloria**



IMPASSIONED "Debate" hosts Winnie Monsod and Oscar Orbos.

Aray-Ko.

See for yourself why "Teyssi @ Twaynti" is a sold-out success.

Celebrity endorser

MARTIN Nievera recently changed his mobile phone number from a Globe to a Smart Gold line.

Reason? Martin is the new celebrity endorser of Smart Communications.

This was announced during the National Advertising Congress in Cebu last weekend.

When we sent Martin a text message to ask about it, he replied, "Yes, it's true. After years of stupidity, it was time for me to get Smart."

As for his stratospheric talent fee, naturally it will remain undisclosed.

Martin wrote a special song for Smart, "Simply Amazing," which is included as a cut in his latest album, "More Souvenirs," from MCA Universal.



TESSIE Tomas as Meldita and Gloria Aray-Ko.



Ruffa produces two-night concert

ROYAL Era Entertainment, owned by actress-beauty queen **Ruffa Gutierrez**, produces a two-night concert, "Sounds and Laughter," featuring a stellar lineup of performers at Country Waffles in Greenhills.

Featured on Dec. 7 (Friday) are **Mitch Valdes** and **Jessa Zaragoza**.

while **Dulce** and **Allan K** will perform on Dec. 8 (Saturday).

Ruffa will return from Los Angeles tomorrow, Nov. 29, to host the dinner show.

Sharing the stage on both nights with the featured artists are special guests **Jinky Llamanzares**, **Yam Ledesma**, **Selina Sevilla** and **Kristina Paner**.

The show is a benefit for the CMB Scholarship Foundation. Sponsors include M-Power Enterprises Inc., RP Watiwat Engineering Corporation, Hapee Toothpaste, Play and Display and MMG Records.

For reservations, call Royal Era at 727-2534/727-2536 or Country Waffles at 722-4415/722-4422.

Inauguration

LIBRARY talents will perform in the grand inauguration of Segway.Comedy Bar, tonight at 178 E. Rodriguez, Jr. Ave. in Libis, Quezon City.

Sharing the stage are the Raging Divas.

A group of childhood friends who were regular patrons of Comic Lab—**Cherry Acuña Fujioka**, **John Mendiola**, **Francis de Leon** and **Saldo Pensute**—were inspired to put up their own sing-along bar.

The process was tedious. Starting from looking for a good location to the planning and the designing, the group is now ready to operate Segway.Comedy Bar.

A lot of giveaways are in store for tonight's lucky customers who will participate in the sing-along, with hosts **Hans Mortel**, **Martin Mijares**, **Vivorah**, **Vice**, **Ruffa**,



"SOUNDS and Laughter" performers Mitch Valdes and Dulce.



SIDE A Band marks their 16th anniversary with a major concert-party at the Big Dome.



LIBRARY talents take centerstage at Segway.Comedy Bar.

Pooh, **Tori**, **Poca**, **La Bacci**, **Maria** and **Wally**, to name a few.

As part of the venue's promo, there will be no cover charge from tonight until Dec. 13.

Andrew de Real of the Library is behind all the gimmicks in newest bar in town.

'Going on 17'

SIDE A Band will mark 16 glorious years in the entertainment industry with a major concert-party, "Side A: Going on 17," Dec. 15 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Presented by **Big Time Productions**, the concert will showcase the beautiful tunes that have endeared Side A to their loyal followers throughout their stellar career.

Special guests are **Ogie Alcasid**, **Lani Misalucha**, **Willie Revillame**, with **Hotlegs Dancers** and **The Manoeuvres**. The show will be directed by **Bert de Leon**.

Side A is composed of **Joey Generoso**, **Naldy Gonzales**, **Kelly Badon**, **Joey Benin** and **Ernie Severino**. Tickets are available at the Araneta Coliseum box-office and SM Ticketnet outlets.

Globe acoustic night

GLOBE Handyphone, through its mobile e-services **myGlobe**, treats its valued subscribers to a night of sentimental music, 9 p.m. on Nov. 29 on Studio 23.

"Globe Celeb8: Acoustic Night," was taped live from the Republic of Malate.

Globe subscribers and TV audience can lay back and chill out in an evening of soothing performances by **Calvin Millado**, **Richard Merck**, **Mon David**, **Bituin Escalante**, **Jimmy Bondoc**, **Radha**, **Mike Luis**, **Freeverse**, **Barbie's Cradle**, **Jed Meddela** and **Malik**.

The intimate night of acoustic performance is the third episode of **Globe's** five-part TV special, "Celeb8: A Globe Get-Together."

The special is **Globe Handyphone's** way of thanking its over four million subscribers for continued patronage of its mobile phone service.

Globe also raffled off phone-kits during the night to **Globe Handyphone** subscribers who texted in their original romantic poems.

And because **Globe** is in a great gift-giving mood, it is giving its subscribers the chance of winning great prizes through the biggest text trivia promo, "Text Away to Get-away."

By answering three trivia questions during the show, **Globe** subscribers may get to win trips to **Cebu**, **Davao**, **Boracay** and **Palawan**.

For the grand draw, **Globe Handyphone** will give away a **Ford Explorer**, **Ford Expedition** and a trip to **Australia** for four, four days, three night, inclusive of air fare and accommodation.



WESTLIFE. Returns with a new CD, "World of Our Own," bannered by the carrier single, "Queen of My Heart."

Westlife reigns anew with 'Queen'

AFTER orchestrating a massive world tour in lieu of eight number one singles all over the world and a slew of awards, Irish lads **Shane**, **Bryan**, **Mark**, **Nicky** and **Kian**, collectively known as **Westlife**, return with a new CD, "World of Our Own," which takes off with the much-awaited new single, "Queen of My Heart."

Described as a moving ballad, "Queen of My Heart" showcases the bands' talented vocals and soothing harmonies. The track is produced by **Steve Mac**, in the tradition of such **Westlife** hits "Flying Without Wings," "My Love" and "Swear It Again." The song was co-written with

long-time collaborators **Wayne Hector** and **McLaughlin** and **Robson**.

The 17-track "World of Our Own" album also features "Reason for Living," a song written by the boys themselves.

The collection also includes "My Private Movie," a song which was earlier released only in the US version of the "Westlife" album.

The boys also record their cover version of **Sarah McLachlan's** "Angel."

"World of Our Own" is now available in CD and cassette formats under **BMG Records** Philippines.

Bert Nievera-Dulce concert highlights Country Waffle opening in Baguio

COUNTRY Waffles Restaurant opens its third outlet this month at **Camp John Hay**, **Baguio City**.

Located near the 12th tee of the sprawling former American military base, **Country Waffles** brings "Country cookie at its old-fashioned best" to the residents of the country's summer capital, as well as vacationists from the lowlands and tourists from other countries.

Done in the same country-style architecture as other **Country Waffles** restaurants in **California**, **USA**, the newly opened **Baguio** branch can comfortably accommodate 100 diners.

To mark the opening, a musical concert featuring timeless balladeer **Bert Nievera** and award-winning

diva **Dulce** will be held at the new outlet on Nov. 30.

Country Waffles is a California-based restaurant chain specializing in old-fashioned waffles. It is also famous for home-style country biscuits and gravy, country breakfast, omelets, salads, sandwiches and steaks.

To cater to the Filipino taste, a wide array of Filipino breakfast has been added to the menu. This includes **Angus beef tapa**, **Vigan longganisa**, **hamonado** and **bagnet**.

The restaurant's theme is centered on the legend of **Uncle Jeb's Country Store** in **Little Rock, Arkansas**, where old-fashioned home cooking is a way of life.



BITUIN Escalante and Freeverse. Featured performers in "Globe Get-Together."



Nominees for NU Rock Awards 2001 named

BY MARINEL R. CRUZ

ROCK music fanatics are expected to pack Le Pavilion in Pasay City on Dec. 6 to root for their favorite artists in the annual and much anticipated NU 107 Rock Awards 2001: A Rock Odyssey.

What could be this year's most exhilarating rock show is titled "NU 107 Rock Awards 2001: A Rock Odyssey."

Rock station dwNU 107's big daddy Atom Henares, in a press conference at Virgin Café in Quezon City, announced the nominees in 14 categories.

Bands like The Itchyworms, Brownbeat All-Stars, Imago, Moonstar 88 and Radioactive Sago Project are competing in the Best New Artist category while Barbie's Cradle, The Dawn, The Eraserheads, Sandwich, Slapshock and Wolfgang are vying for the Artist/Band of the Year award.

Nominees for Song of the Year ("Ambulansya" by Rivermaya, "Food for the Soul" by Sandwich, "Get Away" by Slapshock, "I Saw You Coming In" by The Dawn, "Motorbykle" by Cynthia Alexander, "No Falter" by Wolfgang, "Sink or Swim" by Chico Science) and for Album of the Year ("Music From the Buffet Table" by Barbie's Cradle, "Prodigal Sun" by The Dawn, "Carbonsteroxide" by The Eraserheads, "Probably not but Most Definitely" by Imago, "Four-track Mind" by Sandwich, "Headtrip" by Slapshock and "Accoustica" by Wolfgang) are also expected to draw rock devotees from all over the land to the awards show.

The best music video will be chosen from the works of lensmen Robert Quebral (Moonstar 88's "Torete"), Marie Jamora (Sandwich's "Food for the Soul"), Monty Parungao (Barbie's Cradle's "Music From the Buffet Table") and Lyle Sacris (Chico Science's "Sink or Swim" and Slapshock's "Get Away"), and the best album packaging from the creations of artists Cynthia Bauzon (Eraserheads' "Carbonsteroxide" and Sandwich's "Four-track Mind"), Rayyn ("Rayyn"), Rom Villaseñan (Slapshock's "Headtrip") and Hana Highway (Wolfgang's "Accoustica").

Tribute

The event will also pay tribute to artists through individual awards like Vocalist of the Year (nominees Marc Abaya of Sandwich, Basti Artadi of Wolfgang, Jamir Garcia of Slapshock, Barbie Almalbis of Barbie's Cradle, Aia de Leon of Imago and Jet Pangan of The Dawn), Guitarist of the Year (The Eraserheads' Marcus Adoro and Ely Buendia, Slapshock's Lean Ansing and Jerry Basco, Sandwich's Marc Abaya and Diego Castillo, The Dawn's Francis Reyes and Wolfgang's Manuel Legarda);

Bassist of the Year (Carlos Balcells of The Dawn, Rommel de la Cruz of Barbie's Cradle, Mon Legaspi of Wolfgang, Lee Nadela of Slapshock and Buddy Zabala of The Eraserheads), and Drummer of the Year (Mike Dizon of Sandwich, Chi Evora of Slapshock, Wolf Gemora of Wolfgang, JB Leonor of The Dawn, Zach Lucero of Imago and Raimund Marasigan of The Eraserheads).

The producer of the year will be chosen from among Francis Reyes, JB Leonor and Atsushi Matsura for "Prodigal Sun" (The Dawn), Robin Rivera for "Carbonsteroxide" (The Eraserheads), Rommel Sanchez and Raimund Marasigan for "Four-track Mind" (Sandwich), Francis Reyes and Louie Talan for "Headtrip" (Slapshock) and Louie Talan for "Accoustica" (Wolfgang).

Third year

The show also marks NU 107's third year in honoring new and unsigned bands and pays tribute, through the Hall of Fame Award, to individuals or organizations who have given continued support to the music industry.

For a month, NU 107 conducted polls in Metro Manila malls and clubs, or received votes phoned in to dwNU stations in Manila, Cebu and Davao. Voting via the Internet was also done through Philmusic.com.

Station manager Ron Titular explained that to qualify, an artist or group must have had an album released during the nomination period, Sept. 1, 2000 to Aug. 31, 2001.

With this year's theme, lifted from the Stanley Kubrick film masterpiece, "2001: A Space Odyssey," the show promises to take artists and rock enthusiasts on an unforgettable trip that will feature "a bigger spectrum of bands," according to Henares.

Alternative music lovers can expect exhilarating performances from The Eraserheads, Slapshock, The Dawn, Imago, Twisted Halo, Chico Science, Barbie's Cradle, Battery, Sandwich and Bad Burn in the awards show.

New venue

The show also means to break down social barriers through the entrance of Progressive Broadcasting Corp., the Henares-owned media entertainment network responsible for maintaining dwNU radio, into television through its own music channel, UHF 37's UnTV.

With the arrival of UnTV, PBC hopes to "encourage not only musicians who continue to reinvent themselves but other communities like groups of short film directors, designers, produc-



COMEBACK rock group The Dawn nominated for Artist/Band of the Year.

ers and graphic artists as well," Henares said. "A lot of new things is coming up," Titular added. "UnTV is just the start of a new journey for us."

This year's rock awards will be staged at the Le Pavilion Metropolitan Park, a 30-foot tent

along Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City, and will be broadcast live on dwNU 107.5.

"We hope this year's celebration will be more intimate following the change of venue," Henares said. "This is a chance (for fans) to celebrate with the artists."

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RJ 100 Introduces New Young Adult Menu

Shakespeare once said, "If music be the food of love...then play on." If the greatest playwright of all time were alive today, he would have enjoyed listening to RJ 100's new music menu. Indeed, it's a smorgasbord of the latest hits and the greatest classics.

Let's face it, most of us can listen to jazz or pop for only a few hours. As soon as our mood changes, so does our music preference. One moment we want to listen

to some rhythm and blues and then suddenly, we find ourselves wanting to hear ballads or light rock.

Armed with this insight, RJ 100 FM has made another breakthrough with its new program format. While other stations limit themselves to a genre or era of music, RJ 100 meticulously combines musical hits of yesteryears with this era's chart busters. The listener is treated to a wide variety of music so there is no need to surf through

the radio. This format, dubbed as YAMMI or Young Adult Music Mix, is a sumptuous feast for the young adult market (YAM). The sound is an RJ 100% perfect mix. Not too fast, not too slow; not too loud nor too soft. And take note, they never play less than three songs in a row.

Try tuning in today. "Master Chefs" have prepared the "piece de resistance" by carefully cooking up music clusters, using the latest computer technology to sift through over 30,000 pre-screened songs in

the RJ 100 music collection.

Music lovers from different parts of the country can take delight in this new program format via satellite in eight key cities nationwide: Manila 100.3FM, Baguio 91.1FM, Tuguegarao 96.5FM, Cebu 100.3FM, Iloilo 98.3FM, Bacolod 99.9FM, Cagayan de Oro 88.5FM and Davao 100.3 FM. So tune in and be among the first to experience how RJ 100 takes your listening pleasure to a higher level. But be warned—tuning in can be addictive.



SANDWICH. A hefty serving with nine nominations out of 14 awards.

New 'Wheel...' needs some oiling

THE FIRST of ABC 5's three new game shows to hit the TV screen last week was "Wheel of Fortune" (7:30 p.m.), with **Rustom Padilla** as gamemaster. It was a local rendition of the popular American show that was telecast for years on Philippine TV, some years back.

That was both a plus and a minus for the new show. Plus, because its "brand name" element should appeal to some viewers, and minus because excessive familiarity does breed, perhaps not contempt, but certainly predictability and eventual boredom.

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

The first "Wheel of Fortune" telecast went well enough, with two of its three contestants figuring fairly strongly in each of the game's three initial rounds.

In fact, after everything was over, the first contestant had racked up a total of P67,945 worth of prizes, the second went home with P7,000, while the third didn't win anything (except an unspecified consolation prize).

This was where one of the problems of the new show presented itself: its prizes simply weren't big enough. True, P67,000-plus is a substantial amount of money, but on Channel 2 that same night, the contestant (**Fanny Serrano**) was winning P500,000, plus an extra showcase.

There's nothing wrong with "Wheel of Fortune's" scale of prizes—except a matter of context: contestants and viewers simply have gotten used to much bigger pots, so "Wheel of Fortune's" more modest winnings feel rather anticlimactic.

Is there a way of increasing the pot by doubling, tripling or even quadrupling the amounts on the show's signature revolving board? Other game shows have set a level in terms of potential winnings that this new program can't afford to ignore.

The first telecast was made eventful by its winner, an upbeat young man who kept things peppy with his smart guesses and asides.

As for its gamemaster, Rustom Padilla, he didn't do badly at all, but he was too mod and giggly to give the show the solid, dependable core it needed to come on strong as a test of skill and nerve. We trust that Padilla will come on stronger in subsequent telecasts.

Question: Since this show's format is similar to "Spin-A-Win" (or is it the other way around?), didn't the program's producer consider "Spin-A-Win's" **Jeanne Young** as this new production's gamemaster?

Perhaps the show wanted a younger look, hence the decision to make Padilla the program's gamemaster. Fine, but the "Spin-A-Win" link could have been a plus factor.

In any case, this new "Wheel of Fortune" feels a mite too familiar, since its format has been seen on TV for years and years. Can anything be done to make it fresher? Would it be possible to add some innovations and variations to its basic game?

That, and perhaps bigger prizes, could make the show more exciting, and enable it to be more competitive on its time slot, which is fully or partly shared by the likes of "Game Ka Na Ba" and "Korek na Korek Ka Diyan."

'Kababaihan'

THE NEW Voice Company will present "Kababaihan," a gala benefit performance of "The Vagina Monologues" (with Filipino music, songs, poetry and testimonies) on Feb. 23, 2002 at the Folk Arts Theater.

The special presentation is the Philippines' participation in the worldwide V-Day event, for the benefit of the Purple Rose Campaign. It features Filipino artists from theater, TV, film, the concert stage, recording, literature and dance.

Other adjunct events include poetry readings, platform discussions, exhibits of works by women artists and creative workshops. To participate or volunteer, call NVC at 896-5497.

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'The Prophet' now on video

AFTER the successful video release of the action-packed "Terminal Rush," Don "The Dragon" Wilson returns to his biggest film to date, with spectacular scenes guaranteed to thrill the audience.

C-Interactive Digital Entertainment releases "The Prophet" on original VHS and VCDs.

Wilson plays agent Jarrod

Maddix who is sent on a special mission to round up seven terrorists suspected to be members of an international militant cult.

Maddix discovers that his assignment is "one big fat lie" that uncovers a fatal secret that the CIA has kept for over 30 years.

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MONSTERS, INC. - GP 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 6:45, 8:50	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW - R 18 11:15, 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40	HARRY POTTER - GP 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

CBCP finds 'Potter' film 'pure magic' but warns fans against black magic

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

ROMAN Catholic Muggles (non-magic people) have been warned against attempting Harry Potter's "witchcraft."

The movie review body of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) on Monday raised fears that die-hard fans of the phenomenally popular Harry Potter might try practicing his "black magic."

"Though wizardry is portrayed on a fairy-tale level, there is the danger that die-hard fans who idolize Harry and admire his heroic feats might be encouraged to dabble in witchcraft, seek sources of black magic, and may fail to differentiate the real from the reel," said the CBCP movie body in a Nov. 23 review.

But the CBCP's Catholic Initiative for Enlightened Movie Appreciation (Cinema) said it generally found the movie "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" to be wholesome, especially for Harry's admirers.

Wizard

The movie is directed by Chris Columbus from the book of the same title by J.K. Rowling.

The story is about the orphaned Harry, who is adopted by cruel relatives. On his 11th birthday, Harry realizes he is a wizard and goes to study at a magic school.

He later ends up saving magic people by successfully repelling attempts by evil magician Voldemort to steal the sorcerer's stone and bring chaos to the world.

The CBCP's Cinema said the

movie is "pure magic—awesome, fearful, funny and even sad."

"This movie presents a delightful parallelism of the world of wizardry and our reality, extending to student rivalry in studies and sports, and man's desire for power and immortality," it said.

The movie can "awaken the wonder of fantasy in the child in all of us," Cinema added.

Evil ones

"While the movie is a product of man's imagination and ingenuity, its themes of love, friendship and goodness depicted by the 'good' wizards, as well as envy, pride and deception conveyed by the 'evil' ones, are universal."

But Cinema was quick to clarify that witches only "exist in fairy tales."

The CBCP body also noted that the movie's casting was "perfect and the acting inspired," and the special effects "extensive and fantastic."

"'Harry Potter' has indeed cast a spell on everyone as the movie ended with the theater resounding with a well-deserved spontaneous applause of joy and satisfaction," Cinema noted.

Cinema, mindful of the "power of film in the transformation of society," has been reviewing movies to "guide the viewing public in the critical choice and patronage of films."

Cinema's officers include CBCP spokesperson Msgr. Hernando M. Coronel, Fr. Crisostomo A. Yalung as chair, and board member Dr. Zenaida Rotea.

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MTV Philippines names VJ hunt winners

BEING an MTV VJ is probably one of the most coveted jobs among the young crowd in this country. Landing the glamorous job guarantees instant fame, household name status and lots of endorsement offers. Blame it on the popularity of MTV culture in our generation.

The much-anticipated hunt for this year's MTV Philippines VJ came to a close as Smart Communications joined presenter Lux Super Rich Shampoo and other sponsors in bringing in the top ten MTV VJ finalists last Nov. 17.

Manila's prettiest people came out early in the night and joined the crowd already congregating along the SM Megamall Mega Strip



NEW MTV VJs Ana Shier and Derek Ramsey.

to witness the much-anticipated finals and to enjoy a night of performances from various top artists.

The MTV event was hosted by popular MTV VJs KC Montero, Belinda Pabelo and Sara Meier.

A VTR showing previous MTV VJ wannabes in their "period looks" like Vina Morales (1987), Eppy Quizon (1990) and Ogie Alcasid (1986) broke the ice.

The finalists were then introduced one by one and randomly divided into pairs.

Without prior knowledge of what band or artist they will be assigned to introduce and interview, the hopefuls put on their bubbliest and smartest performance to woo the crowd and of course, the critical eyes of the judges.

Finalists Louis Tortuya and Mary Anne Sansano got a shot in interviewing R&B group 7 Shots of Wisdom.

Asked by MTV VJ Hunt judge Donnie Ramirez who they want to be if they were reincarnated as a rock star, Jansen Cunanan wished he was Elvis Presley, while Mitch Astudillo preferred legendary Jimi Hendrix.

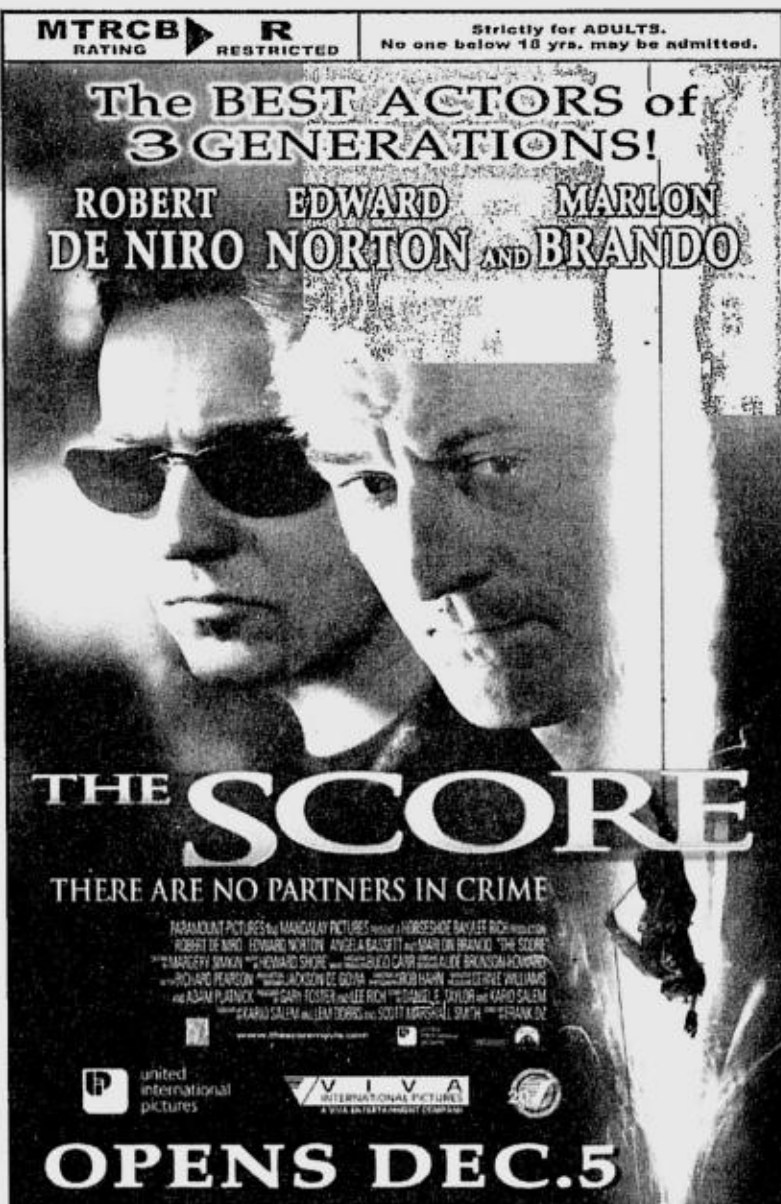
Davaoño Carlos Ramos and Chams Espina introduced folk-inspired rock band Imago.

Derek Ramsey made many hearts flutter when he said he would choose the love of his life over being an MTV VJ, while Ana Shier showed girl power in answering MTV VJ Hunt judge Tim Yap's question regarding motherhood.

Mikey Randall and Monique del Mar squared off with the crowd as Pulp editor and MTV VJ Hunt judge Vernon Go challenged them to do anything to make the crowd go wild and screaming.

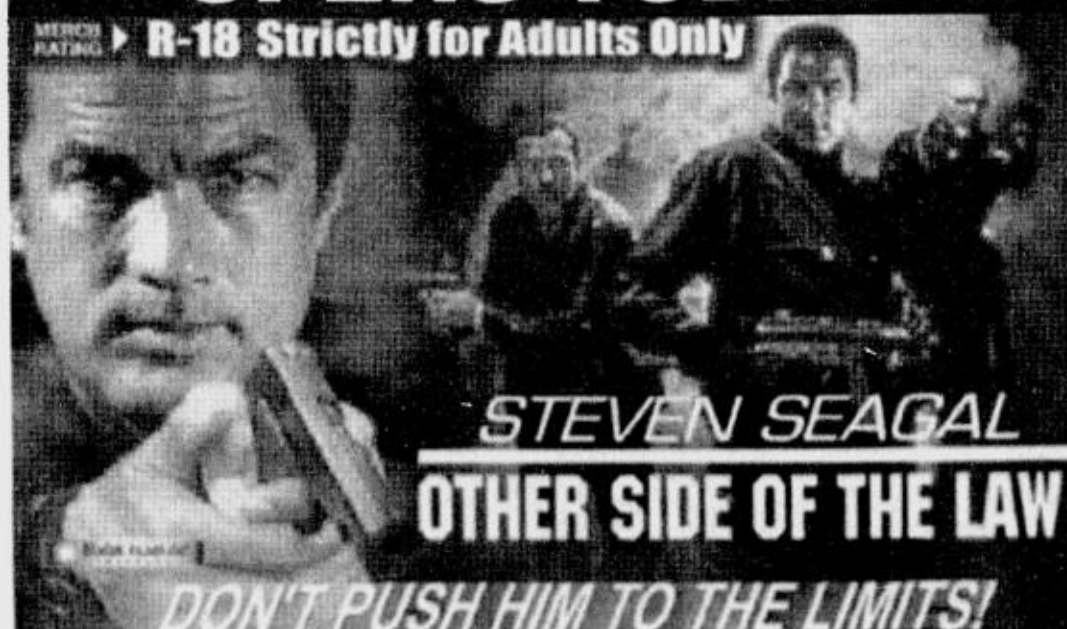
While all of the finalists were gifted with the looks, the screen presence, the MTV attitude and the gift of gab, in the end the MTV VJ hats (as literally put on the heads of the winners by MTV top honcho Francis Lumen) went to dashing Derek Ramsey and charming Ana Shier.

Smart's personal communications and mobile services division top executive Anastacio R. Martinez joined the equally impressive line-up of judges which included, among others, Cosmopolitan's Myrza Sison, fashion icon Tina Maristela-Ocampo, lifestyle editor Millet Mananquil and restaurateur Meritt Crocker.



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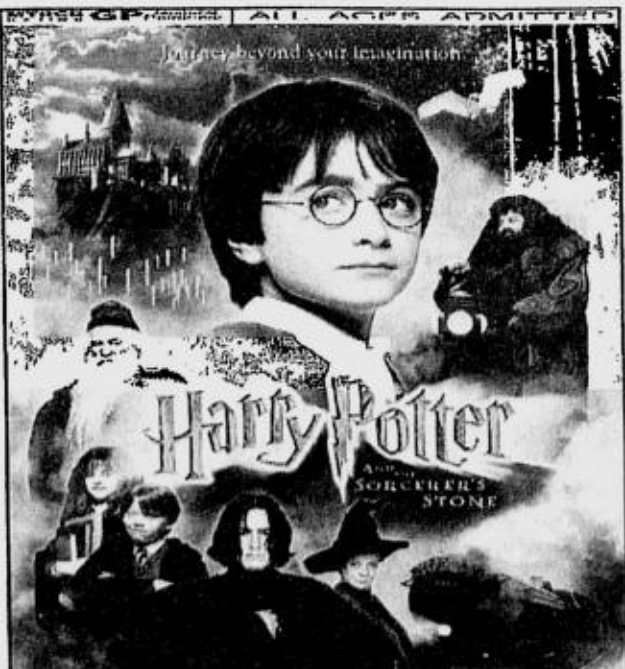
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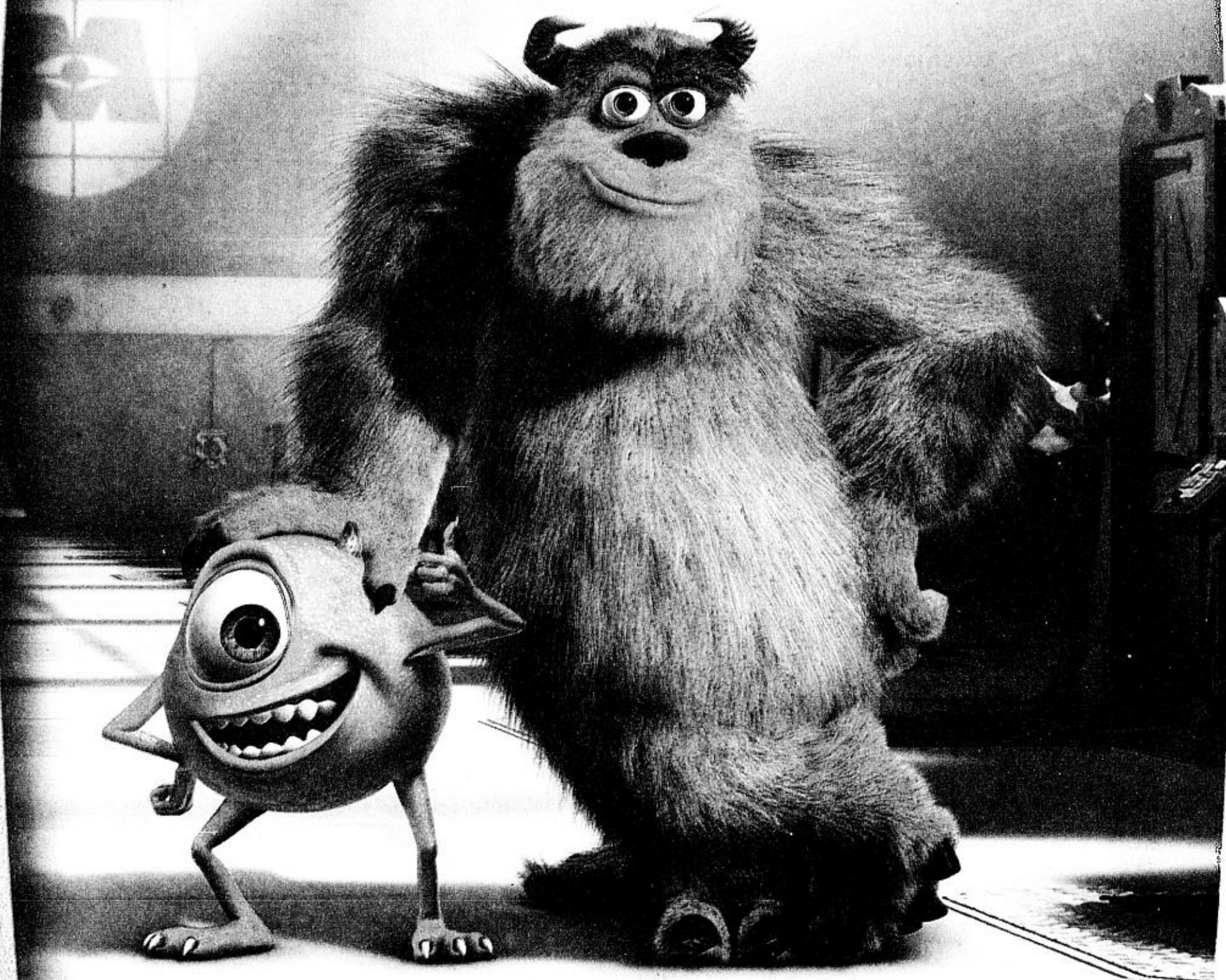
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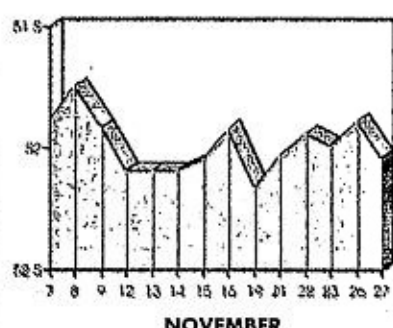
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US economy slips into recession

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks up on economy hopes

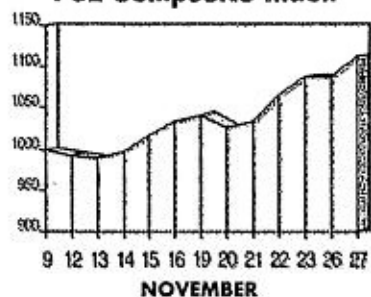
SHARES ended more than 2 percent higher yesterday, spurred by growing hopes for an economic rebound next year, with players shrugging off a fresh outbreak of fighting in Mindanao, traders said.

After pulling back on Monday following three consecutive days' gains, the main index ended up 23.15 points, or 2.13 percent, at 1,111.52, its highest closing level since Oct. 1.

Turnover rose to P563.55 million, from P500.55 million on Monday.

STOCKS/B4

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

WASHINGTON—The terrorist-struck US economy has plunged into recession after an unparalleled 10-year expansion, the official arbiter of US business cycles announced yesterday.

The slide into recession was exacerbated by the Sept. 11 suicide attacks, in which 19 hijackers commandeered four planes, flattened the World Trade Center and killed thousands of people, it said.

But US economic activity had already reached a peak in March, said the US National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)'s panel of six experts—designated the official judge of US business cycles.

"The committee is satisfied that the total contraction in the economy is sufficient to merit the determination that a recession is underway," the bureau said in a statement.

"The expansion that began in March 1991 ended in March 2001 and a recession began," the committee said in a statement posted on its website. "The expansion lasted exactly 10 years, the longest in the NBER's chronology."

Many experts tipped a recovery in 2002, beginning slowly and accelerating in the second half of next year.

But they also warned that fears of reprisal for the US-led military campaign in Afghanistan and other concerns close to home—specifically over employment—made forecasts uncertain.

US Treasurer Paul O'Neill said the US economy was already coming back.

Recessions past and present

The United States entered an economic recession in March, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, a committee of academic economists. The six-member panel made its determination by identifying a peak in business activity, which marks the end of a period of economic expansion and the beginning of a recession. Here is a look at recessions since 1945.

Peak - bottom	Length of recession (in months)
February 1945 - October 1945	8
November 1948 - October 1949	11
July 1953 - May 1954	10
August 1957 - April 1958	8
April 1960 - February 1961	10
December 1969 - November 1970	11
November 1973 - March 1975	16
January 1980 - July 1980	6
July 1981 - November 1982	16
July 1990 - March 1991	8
March 2001 ...	

One year

SOURCE: National Bureau of Economic Research

AP

"I think we have recovered a good part of the loss we had after Sept. 11," he said in a statement.

On the official recession verdict, he said: "That is a measure of the past. What matters is going forward."

US President George W. Bush pressed US lawmakers to pass a stimulus package to be on his desk by Christmas.

"We have got the framework for economic recovery. I hope Con-

gress moves quickly on an economic stimulus package," he told reporters in the White House's Rose Garden.

Republicans and Democrats in the US Senate have locked horns over the best way to accelerate growth.

The Senate's majority Democrats have proposed a \$73-billion stimulus package. The Republican-dominated House of Representatives last month backed a \$100-billion measure, mostly tax cuts.

Although the US deterioration be-

gan in March, the terrorist attacks may still have been the factor that tipped the world's biggest economy into a recession, the NBER said.

"Before the attacks, it is possible that the decline in the economy would have been too mild to qualify as a recession," the bureau said.

"The attacks clearly deepened the contraction and may have been important in turning the episode into a recession."

Recession is most often loosely defined as two consecutive quarters of contraction in gross domestic product (GDP).

But the NBER defines it as a "significant decline in activity spread across the economy, lasting more than a few months, visible in industrial production, employment, real income and wholesale-retail trade."

Employment, the most critical indicator for the bureau, began to decline after March this year, it said, and official figures showed employment fell 1.4 million from a peak in January.

The bureau focuses mostly on four key indicators: employment, manufacturing and trade sales, industrial production and personal income. All indicators except personal income had fallen, it said.

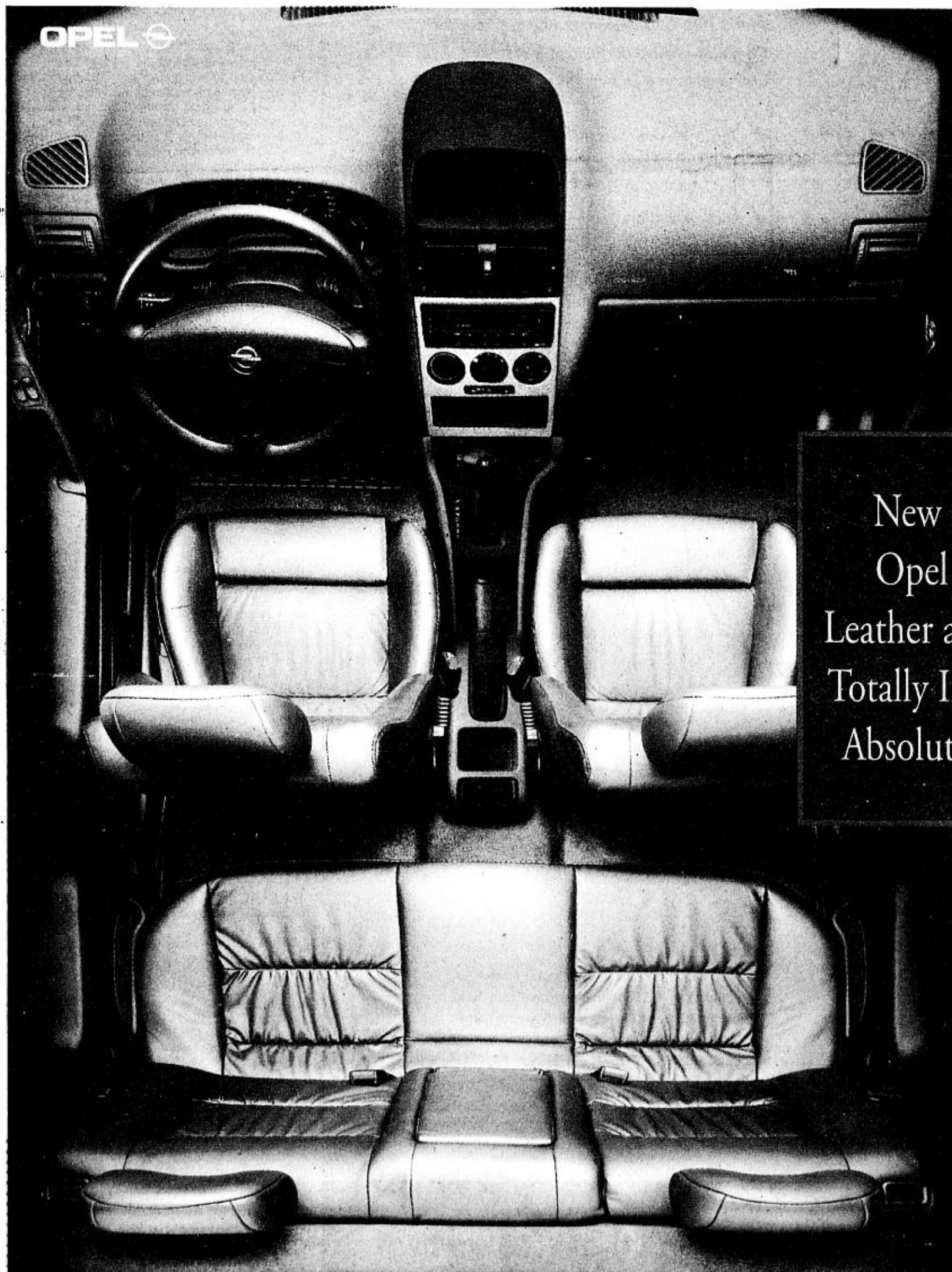
Most economists are predicting that a combination of tax cuts, heavy government spending and lower interest rates will fuel an economic recovery next year.

"We are coming back but slowly," said Delos Smith, economist at the private Conference Board.

But uncertainties remained, Smith said.

"We have a lot of stimulus but if you are a nervous wreck you are not going to do anything," he added. "So

US/B3



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3 banks back rehab plan for ASB Group

THE ASB Group of Companies has concluded agreements with three creditor-banks to implement the rehabilitation plan earlier approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

It said the agreements were with Allied Bank, International Exchange Bank and DBS Philippines. The ASB Group said it was currently negotiating with other creditor-banks.

The agreements are intended to achieve the business targets of the rehabilitation plan, including the completion of ongoing projects, it explained.

Earlier, the ASB Group created a Project Governing Board to help imple-

ment the rehabilitation plan. The board is chaired by the SEC appointed receiver, Fortunato Cruz, with Leonardo Signon-Reyna representing the unsecured creditors and Luke C. Roxas representing the ASB Group as members. A representative from the trustee bank, Bank of Commerce, is also a member of the board but without voting rights.

Roxas, chair of the ASB Group, said that the board would administer and manage an asset pool, or the assets specifically set aside to generate the funds to pay the unsecured creditors. Among the assets which will be placed in the pool are unencumbered real estate worth

about P60 million; two uncompleted projects which can generate funds amounting to P700 million; other assets which will be released from the mortgagee banks as well as cash of about P200 million representing the proceeds of the sale of DBS Philippines Inc.

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE MAIDEN issue of the two-year dollar-linked peso notes yesterday raised only P3.5 billion for the government, a reflection of the market's ambivalent sentiment toward the new borrowing instrument.

The Bureau of Treasury said the offering was successful since the intention was to raise only P7 billion from the issuance of the dollar-linked notes. The three-year dollar linked instrument would be auctioned today.

But the amount raised yesterday was short of the P5-billion cap that the Treasury had earlier set for the first-day auction of the new securities.

The two-year debt notes had fetched a coupon rate of 8.5625 percent and would mature on Nov. 28, 2003. The yield was relatively low compared to rates of two-year instruments in the secondary market that

fetches a yield close to 13 percent.

Also called a dollar hedge, the latest instrument in an increasing line-up of novelty debt notes being sold by the government offers dollar-linked interest rates at current levels that would be paid out based on the peso-dollar exchange rate at the time of maturity.

Traders were divided on the success of the new borrowing since some had estimated that for an investor to realize gains on his hedge, the peso must drop to more than 56 to a dollar over the next two years.

A source said P56-to-\$1 would be a breakeven point, which means that if the peso would recover above this level, the investor loses on the bet but would still have a slight gain on the coupon rate.

If the peso falls in two to three years to a level lower than the rate at the time the investment was made, then the investor gets an ad-

ditional return. If the peso is stronger by the time the debt paper matures, then the government would have additional earnings.

The national government was planning to raise as much as P20 billion this year from the low-yielding but dollar-linked peso instruments if it would be assured that there was enough appetite in the market for the new debt notes.

To be handled by Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Multinational Investment Bancorporation, and Deutsche Bank, the new borrowing instrument raises cheap funds for the government since it follows dollar interest rates, which are much lower than local rates.

It should also help stabilize the foreign exchange market since it would attract companies and big players who want to hedge risks against the peso.

Some traders said the offering of

the dollar hedge notes should help lure the so-called "rational speculators" away from the foreign exchange trading.

In fact, the dollar-linked instrument was one of the several peso-propping measures that Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had volunteered to the central bank months ago.

"If we issue more than P5 billion in a single-day, it may be difficult for a thin market," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said in an earlier interview.

Edeza pointed out that the government was also open to limiting the issue of the dollar-linked notes to P10 billion or even less. He said a lot depended on the reception of the market.

"This new instrument behaves like a dollar investment so there would be no need to buy dollars in the spot market," a Bangko Sentral official said.

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Manufacturing output down 7.3% in Sept.

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

FOR the sixth straight month, the country's key manufacturing output fell by 7.3 percent in September as local industries braced for an even worse global slowdown due to heightened jitters from the terrorist attacks in the United States.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the country's volume of production index based on its monthly survey of selected industries further fell in September from the 1.1 percent contraction in August (revised from the 2.2-percent growth earlier reported).

The slowdown during the month was led by the double-digit decline in the production of tobacco, paper and paper products and wood products. As expected, electrical machinery and textile, both dependent on imported raw materials, were also among the worst performers.

Even food manufacturing, which used to be among the consistent gainers in terms of volume, has now joined the ranks of the badly hit sectors.

On the other hand, the sectors which managed to improve their production volumes despite the difficult environment were those engaged in the manufacturing of footwear and wearing apparel, basic metals, petroleum products, machinery excluding electrical, fabricated metals, leather products, publishing and printing and transport equipment.

It was noteworthy that those in the business of producing key commodities like basic metals and petroleum products raised their volume, which analysts said was in anticipation of a windfall from the uncertainties in global markets. This developed as the terrorist attacks and the succeeding US retaliatory actions in Afghanistan resulted in a shift in investors' preference from equities to cash and commodities.

Meanwhile, the NSO also reported that the volume of net sales in September dipped by 1.9 percent from a positive growth of 0.3 percent during the previous month. This was due to the decline in eight sectors led by electrical machinery and furniture/fixtures.

Agencies dodge role in dev't of Clark airport

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

TWO government agencies have denied responsibility for developing the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark, claiming it was not part of their mandate.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said in a statement last week that "the BCDA (Bases Conversion Development Authority) has taken over responsibility for the development of the DMIA," but a BCDA insider said otherwise.

"The main responsibility of the BCDA is to develop the old US bases. There are separate entities handling the DMIA development—Clark International Airport Corp. and Clark Development Corp. There is no directive from the President transferring that responsibility to the BCDA," the source said.

Alvarez, however, said in a phone interview that since the BCDA was in charge of developing the old US bases, it also had the responsibility of developing the airport.

He even said he would support any move by the BCDA to help spur growth and development in the former Clark International Airport.

"The best is for them to convince PAL (Philippine Airlines) to schedule regular flights to Clark. The DOTC will help them process the applications of anybody who would apply for regular flights," he said.

But the BCDA source said it was the Department of Transportation and Communication's responsibility to see to the development of the airport.

"If the DOTC doesn't want to develop the airport, then they can request that the responsibility be transferred to us. But as of now, we haven't received any directive like that," he said.

The source explained that only a directive from the President could amend their roster of responsibilities, as provided for in the charter that created the agency.

"There was no directive from the President transferring responsibility to the BCDA. There was also no amendment to the EO (executive order) creating CIAC and CDC. As far as we're concerned, there's none that we know of, that there was such an order," he said.

Alvarez insisted that if the project were the DOTC's responsibility, he would not try to pass it on to some other agency.

"If it is a DOTC project, then give it to us. I will accept it if they give it to the DOTC. But it's beyond our jurisdiction. It's not our responsibility," he said.

The BCDA insider also shrugged off the responsibility saying, "it's not in the priorities of the BCDA right now."

NW offensive

NORTHWEST Airlines is continuing its aggressive marketing offensive, unveiling yet another offer to entice Pinoys to spend the Christmas holidays in the United States and hopefully take up the Sept. 11 slack from its American market.

For those without the adequate mileage to qualify for its bargain-basement Cash and Miles promo, the American carrier is now dangling a round-trip, economy ticket to any East Coast destination for \$752.

Among the restrictions listed is that one can only fly out of Manila on Dec. 17, 18, 21, 22, and 23 via Osaka.

For those who wish to travel to Honolulu, the fare, valid also on those dates and also routed through Osaka, is \$645.

The NW pricing is considerably lower than, say, Asiana, the Korean carrier that is a favorite of East Coast balikbayans for its superior meal and in-flight services, daytime arrival/departure time out of Manila, and usually lower-priced fares.

For December departure, Asiana is offering an \$870-RT economy ticket to New York.

Despite the higher pricing, the Korean airline has been fully booked, according to an airline spokesperson, apparently because Asian and non-American airlines are seen to offer lesser risk of hopefully not another Sept. 11-type attack.

Our own Philippine Airlines, flying the fastest route to the US West Coast, has set a \$910-base price for Dec. 16-31 departures to San Francisco or Los Angeles, \$150 more if one were to leave from Dec. 1-15.

Finally, for those who e-mailed asking how they could avail of the \$299 + 20,000 miles fare to New York (*Cocktales*, Nov. 23, 2001), the best way is to call up Manila Northwest Worldperks at 817-0616 and mention the Cash and Miles promo.

For those who do not have enough mileage but is willing to take the \$752-via-Osaka route, the reference code is JH 600.

Do not waste time calling up your travel agent. Both promos may be availed of only from

Northwest. Check out the website, nwa.com.ph, for more details and online reservation/ticketing.

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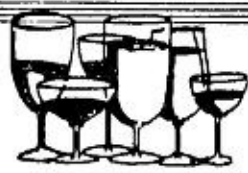
HARDLY have the ink and the glossy society page photos of the local launch of Technomarine dried but already very good copies of the hot Hollywood watch have found their way in Greenhills.

China-made "Technomarine" even comes in "class A" and "class B" models in the Greenhills tiangge: class A, meaning with a rotating bezel, goes for P2,000, while class B, without the bezel, is a snip at P600.

COCKTALES/B5

COCKTALES

By Victor
C. Agustin

**US economy slips into recession**

(From page B1)

much of it depends on external factors. Tell me what is going to happen in Afghanistan? Is anthrax under control?"

Manufacturers said the NBER declaration of a recession was old news to them after a decline in the sector lasting more than a year.

"This report underscores yet again the need for the Senate to take aggressive action

to stimulate economic growth," National Association of Manufacturers president

Jerry Jasinowski said in a statement.

Panel member Ben Bernanke, a professor at Princeton University, said that based on past patterns of recessions lasting six to 18 months "we would expect a trough, beginning a recovery by July next year."

Many other economists share similar views.

Oscar Gonzalez of John Hancock Financial Services in Boston said there was ample reason to expect a resumption of modest growth early in 2002.

"Based upon how effective interest-rate cuts prove to be and keyed to the fact that there is not another terrorist event that would dent consumer confidence, by the end of the second quarter next year we will be in recovery," Gonzalez said. *AFP, Reuters*

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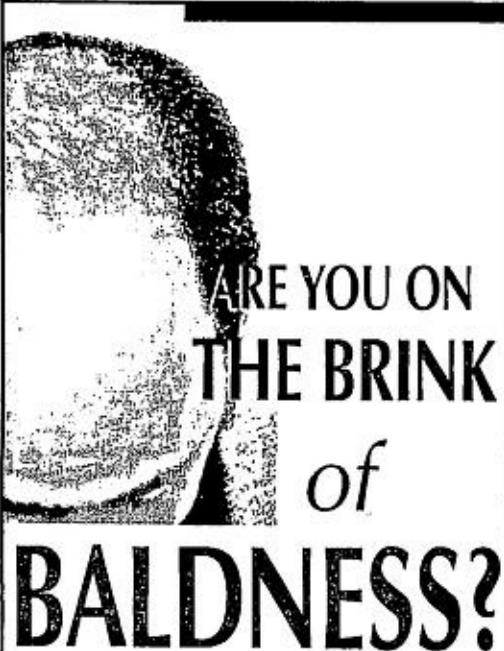
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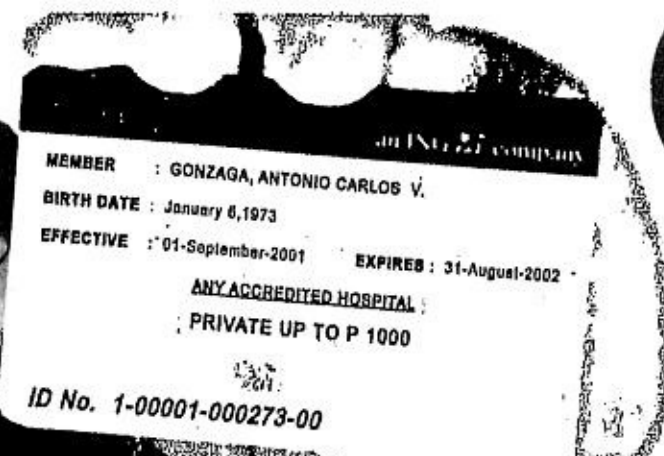
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DOF blasts ecozone agencies for tax lapses

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday urged regulators of the country's economic zones to strictly enforce the 5-percent tax on the gross income of their locators to help plug a P60-billion revenue leakage it blamed on delinquent corporations.

Senior finance officials said they would ask the Bureau of Internal Revenue to revise a year-old regulation that they believed relaxed the basis of the gross income tax.

They reported that the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, and Clark Development Corp. were collecting fewer taxes from their locators.

An official familiar with the matter said instead of collecting the 5-percent gross income tax, these agencies were allowing their locators to pay taxes using their net income.

The 5-percent gross income tax is already an incentive for companies with facilities inside the country's economic zones. Companies not registered with Peza, Subic and Clark have to pay a 32-percent tax on their net income.

Finance officials have blamed the lapse on a BIR regulation that specifies that the 5-percent tax is "imposed

on gross income earned and, hence, income tax in nature and a national internal revenue law in character."

That regulation amended BIR Revenue Regulation 12 series of 1997, which determined that gross income "shall refer to gross sales or gross revenue derived from the registered business activities within the (economic zones)."

The computation was to be "net of sales discount, sales returns and allowances and minus cost of sales, cost of production or direct costs of services (depending on the nature of the business) but before any deduction is made for administrative expense or incidental losses during a given taxable period."

A finance official pointed out that companies inside economic zones exploited the more recent BIR regulation to pass off deductions allowed by the national internal revenue, like administrative expenses that included consulting fees, retirement benefits, insurance premiums, repairs and maintenance, among others.

"It is now as if the 5-percent tax on gross income is being collected after net income. This is helping erode the level of taxes that the BIR could collect from corporations," the finance official complained.

Stocks . . .

(From page B1)

"People are still keen on the package of (United States) aid obtained by President Macapagal-Arroyo . . . with T-bill rates falling there is some shift of funds (into equities) and with some stocks sold down very heavily there are technical, valuation reasons to buy in to the market," DA Market Securities chair Nestor Aguila said.

"People are now looking forward to some form of recovery in the US economy by the middle of next year and are expecting it to trickle through here . . . they are more positive on prospects for next year," United Coconut Planters Bank Trust fund manager Vanessa Lim said.

At the start of trade, however, prices eased on news that the government troops had used helicopter gun-

ships and bomber planes to pound Muslim guerrillas in Zamboanga City early yesterday.

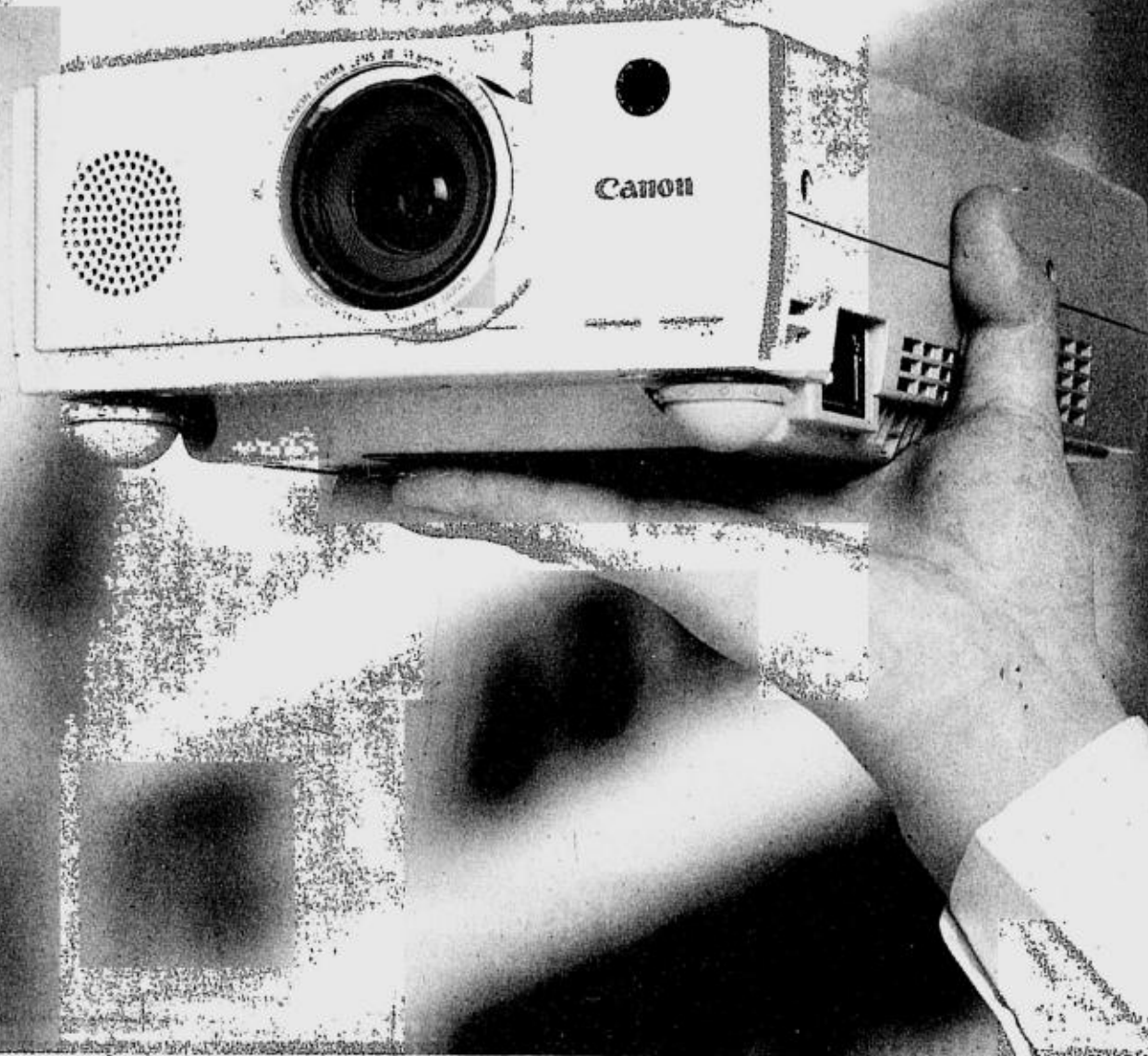
The guerrillas, who have taken scores of civilians hostage, are followers of Nur Misuari, a rebellious Muslim governor who took up arms against the government last week.

Aguila said the market had largely become immune to outbreaks of violence in the south and with the United States pledging increased military support, it was more confident that the government could contain the trouble.

Lim however cautioned that if the fighting was prolonged it would impact sentiment, and prompt fresh profit-taking.

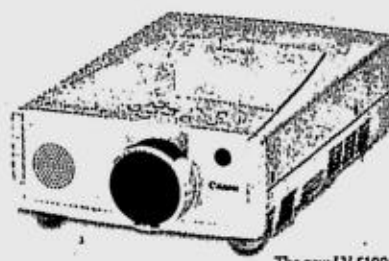
With upward momentum regained, Aguila said he expected the main index to continue higher with "1,243 points probably the holiday target (resistance level by year's end)." *Reuters*

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RCBC set to issue 32.9M common shares

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

STOCKHOLDERS of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. have approved the issuance of 32.964 million shares, the balance of a planned stock rights offering involving 200 million shares which was aimed at raising P2 billion in fresh capital.

In September this year, RCBC approved a P2-billion increase in the bank's capitalization through two tranches of stock rights offering.

RCBC chief operating officer Valentin Araneta said the first tranche of 167,035 million shares, which will be offered this December, would allow stockholders holding at least 2.6 shares to subscribe to one RCBC share at P10,

representing a 50-percent discount over the bank's prevailing share price of P20.

The second tranche of 32.964 million shares will likely be offered for subscription before March next year. This tranche allows stockholders with holdings of at least 18 shares to also subscribe or purchase a new RCBC common share at P10.

In another development, RCBC president and chief executive Alfonso "Tito" Yuchengco has postponed his resignation from the bank up to end this year from end-November, RCBC chair Rizalino Navarro told reporters.

This is expected to give RCBC more time to find Yuchengco's replacement.

RFM keen on buying GMA-7

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

AFTER selling its cash cow Cosmos Bottling Corp., the Concepcion family's food and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. is exploring opportunities in the entertainment business, specifically television broadcasting.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, RFM chair and CEO Jose Concepcion III said the company, which was currently scouting for a new business model, was considering acquiring a television company as part of a strategy to venture into the entertainment business.

Asked about the prospects of

acquiring GMA Network Inc., Concepcion said RFM was interested but not at price offered earlier by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. a controlling stake.

PLDT earlier offered P8.5 billion for 66.7 percent of GMA Network but the buy-in has been deferred in line with the telecommunication giant's belt-tightening strategy.

Concepcion said RFM has other acquisition plans in mind but it has yet to make a definitive move to make any offer. He said it was premature to identify the acquisition targets.

Concepcion, however, said RFM would not venture into a new busi-

ness like broadcasting alone as it prefers to bring in a strategic partner.

"Down the road, this business model can come out to be a superior business model, especially in the Philippines where entertainment is very limited to malls, movies and television. In television, there's not much competition," he said.

Concepcion cited as possible model French company Vivendi, which used to be a bottled water company that became an entertainment company with interests in television, music, Internet and telecommunications.

Vivendi Universal now claims to be the second biggest communications company in the world.

"Not very many TV companies have been successful. It has been something

that we've been considering. The organization is in the process of redefining itself. Without cosmos, do we have the right business model?" he said.

Concepcion also noted that the television business could be one industry that could survive global competition as foreign companies were not allowed to own a stake in media companies.

RFM signed on Friday a deal to sell its 83.2-percent stake in Cosmos to the San Miguel Corp. group for P11.6 billion. The total valuation for Cosmos, including the budget for tender offer, was P14 billion.

The financial closing of the transaction is expected after 30 days, once closing and documentary receipts were completed.

Cocktales . . .

(From page B3)

Technomarine, for the benefit of peasants and geeks, is the brand of the diamond-studded diving watches that has become a Hollywood favorite since its California launching in the late '90s. Models range from \$700 to \$15,000-price level in the United States.

Locally, Technomarine has shown signs of becoming the next pashmina among the Makati's social set, with the authorized dealer in Glorietta running out even of the P75,000, entry-level Technolady model.

An indication of its growing local popularity is that a Philippine-based Internet/cargo delivery firm, e-2-door.com, has also offered the watch on its website, delivering the order right at the customer's doorstep, and payable in competitively priced pesos.

Spanish fly

MIDWAY between downing his favorite Spanish brandy last week, restaurateur/columnist Louie Cruz belatedly discovered a fly floating inside the bottle of his favorite tipple.

After the hysterics that accompany such an outrageous discovery—how could a fly insert itself through the tamper-proof stopper/pourer?—Cruz called up the local distributor the following day to complain about the unfortunate incident.

What followed was even more outrageous. Instead of lending a loyal customer a sympathetic ear, Cruz was passed around several times among the secretaries without him being able to talk to any responsible corporate officer.

Worse, nobody even asked for his telephone number so that the company could return his call at its leisure, according to a steaming Cruz.

The local distributor, Allied Domecq, apparently has a communication problem as well, and it certainly is bigger than an accidental fly.

Heard through the grapevine

WHAT were ex-Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, fellow Erap lawyer Siegfried Fortun, and former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson all doing at the toilet of Mario's Quezon City Monday lunch? (Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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5pm - 6pm	Product Presentation	King Shoes Manufacturing
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Globe, Smart shoot down NTC plan for free voice calls

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

THE COUNTRY'S biggest mobile phone companies are bucking a government proposal for them to offer free short-voice calls, the National Telecommunications Commission said yesterday.

"They seem to be avoiding it," NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. told the INQUIRER.

Rio said he brought the proposal up again during a meeting between the NTC and cellular phone leaders Smart Communications Inc., Globe Telecom Inc. and their subsidiaries, Pilipino Telephone Corp. and Isla Communications Inc., but he did not get a clear answer.

He said the four companies

told him they still needed to study the matter more closely.

The NTC has proposed that Smart, Globe, Piltel and Islacom offer free short-voice calls to cover for the free text messages that these mobile phone firms earlier took away from their subscribers.

Rio had suggested that the free text messages could be translated into "equivalent free voice minutes." He said one arrangement would be for mobile phone providers to provide 10 minutes of free calls for every 100 free text messages taken away.

Smart and Globe have expressed reservations over giving free voice calls as this will eat into their income.

Rio said, however, that the two companies recognized that they could earn more from it as they would be able to use voice channels to ease the heavy traffic of text messages passing through their systems everyday.

"Their voice system is 40-percent underutilized. This still has plenty of room while they're trying to squeeze all the text traffic into one channel," he said.

Most mobile phone companies are using only a single channel to accommodate text messages, while at least seven channels are devoted to voice calls.

When too many text messages pass through this channel, dropped calls and busy signals arise as this channel is also where

voice calls first pass through to connect.

To ease congestion, carriers would have to buy another transmitter. Rio said the channels of this new transmitter would most likely go to waste as the existing ones were already 40-percent underutilized.

Rio said the NTC's proposals would allow cellular phone operators to turn their idle assets into revenue-generating assets.

With free short voice messaging, he said, people would be encouraged to make more voice calls. This could then ease the congestion on the signaling channel, as well as put to use the underutilized voice channels.

DMCI posts P31-M net income in 9 months

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

PUBLICLY listed DMCI Holdings Inc., the holding company of the Consunji family, reported yesterday a consolidated net income of P31 million in the first nine months of the year, a turnaround from a P54-million net loss posted in the same period last year.

The nine-month profit, however, marked a slowdown from the P136 million in earnings that DMCI posted in the first six months of the year.

DMCI explained that the profit drag was the result of lower gross margins in the third quarter

brought, in turn, by adjustments made in the booking of costs and revenue in construction and higher production costs vis-à-vis lower sales in its coal mining business.

DMCI incurred a net loss of P105 million in the third quarter, a far lower loss than the P555 million recorded during the same quarter last year.

DMCI said its flagship construction company, DM Consunji Inc., saw its cost-to-contract revenue ratio rise to 92 percent from 88 percent in the second quarter because of an adjustment in the booking of costs of its 60-percent-owned subsidiary, Ohki-DMCI Corp.

As a result, the main construction unit posted a decline in net income to P67 million in the first nine months of the year from P122 million in the first half of the year.

For its part, 74-percent-owned subsidiary Semirara Mining Corp. experienced a sluggish third quarter due to higher production costs, compounded by

The increased costs resulted from a P139-million production cost that could have been capitalized but was treated as an expense out of conservatism, as well as a 60-percent increase in the cost of repairs of trucks and shovels and bucketwheel excavators that were

worn out because of heavy rains in the second quarter.

Rainfall also led to reduced total coal output and sales, which fell by 12 percent and 13 percent, respectively, from the previous quarter's levels. The lower production against higher costs resulted in a P56-million loss for Semirara during the first nine months of the year.

Two other subsidiaries of DMCI Holdings—DMCI Project Developers Inc. and 46-percent-owned Atlantic Gulf & Pacific Co. of Manila Inc.—sustained net losses of P7 million and P26 million, respectively.

Lepanto trains sights on Tampacan mines

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Corp. has expressed interest to take over the Tampacan copper-gold mining project in South Cotabato of Australian firm Western Mining Corp.

Lepanto's chief executive Artemio Disini confirmed in an interview that his company had offered to buy Western Mining out of the project.

Western Mining, however, has challenged Lepanto's bid.

"There is now a court litigation, and I could not give further com-

ments," Disini said.

Philippine Mineral Exploration Association president Tony Robbins said in another interview that "Lepanto made an offer, but some shareholders practiced their right-of-first-refusal, and they are now undergoing some legal machinations."

Robbins confirmed that Western Mining was totally out of the project, having entrusted it to a caretaker.

He said mining operations in Tampacan had been shut down, and "it would take another three to five years before actual mining could take place

again in the area."

"The new owners of Tampacan should come up with a bankable feasibility study before it could obtain financing and resume works at the site," said Robbins, who is also managing director of mining and exploration company Indophil Resources NL.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has identified Tampacan as one of the Top 5 world-class mines in the country that can generate over \$5 billion in national revenues.

Western Mining's Tampacan project failed to take off from its exploration phase, as skirmishes between the military and the tribal group B'laans marred the project.

A report said the Salnang tribal

council was pursuing plans to manage and develop their territory, which was covered by a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim issued by the government in 1997.

The town of Columbo in Sultan Kudarat is adjacent to the Tampacan municipality in South Cotabato, the center of Western Mining's operations.

Three years ago, Western Mining was granted a financial and technical assistance agreement, the equivalent of a mining permit, over 95,000 hectares in South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato and Davao del Sur.

Western Mining, which is looking for gold and copper, managed to secure agreements with other tribal communities in these areas.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, November 27, 2001)					
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	53.5	51	53	924,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18	19.25	18	19	1,441,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	176	178	174	176	87,800
Philippine National Bank	48.5	48.5	48	48.5	388,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	388,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1380	1370	1360	1370	2,080
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1140	1160	1140	1160	7,680
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	25.5	24	25	54,300
Diversified Fin. Network	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.34	0.41	0.33	0.41	12,420,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	580	580	580	580	20
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.025	4,100,000
Liberty Telecom Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Piltel	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.35	870,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	210,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	392.5	402.5	390	402.5	123,240
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.019	0.021	0.019	0.021	191,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	24	24.5	24	24	51,100
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	31.5	30.5	31.5	1,050,800
Petron Corp.	1.36	1.46	1.34	1.44	23,304,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.56	1.76	1.54	1.76	12,832,000
Kepell Phils. Marine Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.27	170,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	260,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	3,000,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	60,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12.25	12	12.25	324,600
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	8,000
RFM Corp.	2	2.08	2	2.08	3,913,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	42	41	42	146,100
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	52	51.5	51.5	91,100
Universal Robina Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.3	4.35	23,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdq A	0.58	0.63	0.58	0.59	100,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdq B	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	40,000
Ayala Corp.	4.55	4.85	4.55	4.85	8,887,000
Aboliz Equity Ventures	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.48	317,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.66	0.68	1,100,000
Alcom Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	7,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hdq	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.77	0.62	0.77	35,080,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.185	0.16	0.18	4,920,000
Ebcorn Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.1	0.09	0.1	900,000
Fillinvest Dev. Corp.	0.94	1.02	0.94	1	2,020,000
First Phil Hdq Corp	26	26.5	26	26.5	469,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	300,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.135	5,330,000
Ionic Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	819,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	507,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.63	0.69	0.61	0.69	7,500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.34	0.28	0.34	18,730,000
Musis Corp.	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.39	13,200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	7,000,000
Tanday Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	11,000
Unilab Res. & Holdings Co.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	100,000
Unilab Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.115	0.105	0.115	430,000
Wellx Industries Inc.	0.25	0.3	0.25	0.3	160,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	1,440,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	5,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.81	400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.5	11	10.5	11	15,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	370,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	110,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hdq. Corp. (Pdr)	24.25	25	24.25	25	1,548,900
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	40,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	700
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	9	9	9	9	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	555,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.75	4.85	4.75	4.85	10,153,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.215	0.2	0.215	5,230,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.36	11,010,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.25	0.225	0.25	12,090,000
Fillinvest Land Inc.	1.68	1.76	1.68	1.74	8,023,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.3	5,920,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	310,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2	2.1	2	2.1	25,000
Ilogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.02	0.024	0.02	0.023	76,300,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	250,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	810,000
Omico Corp.	0.003	0.0032	0.003	0.0032	30,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	11,100,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	8,600,000
Interport Res.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	2,000,000
Pacific	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	7,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.24	0.2	0.24	20,000
SHARES					
Banks & Fin Svc	3,237,620				126,526,075.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	968,568,160				326,430,665.00
PRO	52,579,000				107,791,400.00
Mining	118,995,000				2,304,200.00
Oil	22,650,000				264,600.00
GRAND TOTALS	1,166,029,780				563,316,940.00
AVERAGES					
Banks & Fin Svc	440.13				UP 6.43
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,546.05				UP 39.92
PRO	500.72				UP 5.67
Mining	983.45				UP 15.39
Oil	1.39				UP 0.04
All Shares Index	700.99				UP 12.43
Composite	1,111.52				UP 23.15
NO. OF ADVANCES: 63; NO. OF DECLINES: 9; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 21; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 93; NO. OF TRADES: 4,428					

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- 10-Channel Auto Scanning

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- 20-Station Automatic Dialing

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DISCLOSURES

IONICS Inc. announced the election of Corazon dela Paz as director to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Vitaliano Nañagas II.

PRIME Gaming Philippines Inc.'s wholly owned subsidiary, **Philippine Gaming Management Corp.**, will buy 100 lottery terminals in the amount of \$520,000 for its equipment lease agreement with **Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office**.

ABACUS Consolidated Resources & Holdings Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 50-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.36 to P0.54 per share.

MARSTEEL Consolidated Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 45-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.11 to P0.16 per share.

FEDERAL Chemicals Inc. said its final offer price for its initial public offering was P7 per share with net proceeds expected to reach P81.9 million.

ELECTED directors of Filsyn Corp. were: **Patricio Lim, Douglas Hsu, Johnny Shih, Champion Lee, Renato Diaz, Felipe Yap, Alfonso Yuchengco III, Florentino Herrera III, George Go, Raphael Lerner, David Wang and Jaime Sto. Domingo.**

ISLAND Information & Technology Inc. announced that **Caesar Dulay** earlier decided to resign as corporate secretary. Elected to replace him was **Serafin Linda. Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research**

CURRENCIES

Nov. 27, 2001					
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency In US\$	Foreign currency In Peso	
United States	Dollar	1.134945	1.000000	51.8970	
Japan	Yen	0.009153	0.008065	0.4185	
United Kingdom	Pound	1.602769	1.412200	73.2889	
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145693	0.128370	6.6620	
Switzerland	Franc	0.682469	0.601323	31.2069	
Canada	Dollar	0.709652	0.625274	32.4498	
Singapore	Dollar	0.619343	0.545703	28.3203	
Australia	Dollar	0.588664	0.518672	26.9175	
Bahrain	Dinar	3.010824	2.652661	137.6651	
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.302652	0.266667	13.8392	
Brunei	Dollar	0.615814	0.542694	28.1590	
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000110	0.000097	0.0050	
Thailand	Baht	0.025712	0.022655	1.1757	
UAE	Dirham	0.309081	0.272331	14.1332	
Korea	Won	0.000905	0.000797	0.0414	
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.881100	45.7284	
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.450499	23.3795	
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134323	6.9710	
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.399826	20.7498	
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064032	3.3231	
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021842	1.1335	
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000455	0.0236	
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.148180	7.6906	
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004395	0.2281	
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005296	0.2748	
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.021842	1.1335	

4 groups offer to handle new gov't borrowing

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

FOUR foreign investment banks have offered to handle a new government borrowing late this year worth \$100 million which will be used to help finance next year's budget.

The new borrowing is meant to replace a cancelled \$100-million Treasury bill issuance that was supposed to be underwritten by Citibank N.A.

The issuance of dollar-denominated treasury bills, originally slated for November, was cancelled after the government rejected Citibank's request for an increase in its handling fee.

The government had planned to offer the treasury bills to retail investors.

Citibank had re-submitted its offer to do a \$100-million, one-year dollar treasury bill issuance. The three other offers came from ING Barings, JP Morgan Chase and Standard Chartered Bank.

Sources said the more attractive offers came from Citibank and ING Barings but the govern-

ment has yet to decide on which group to pick for the planned borrowing.

The \$100-million, one-year borrowing is part of the government's fund raising agenda to finance next year's P130-billion budget deficit. The government has so far raised \$406 million through the issuance of 50 billion yen worth of bonds in Japan through a private placement or a "shibosai."

Another \$250 million worth of private placement to be handled by Credit Suisse First Boston will also be concluded this month.

The plan, said government sources, is to pursue the \$100 million worth of borrowing in the first half of December.

The Macapagal administration needs to raise \$1.4 billion from foreign sources to help bridge the budget gap next year. Another \$1 billion will be raised for National Power Corp.

The state-owned power firm needs at least \$1 billion to settle maturing obligations and to finance part of its costly capital expenses. Napocor, however, could not borrow on its own because it

BACK TO WORK

Nissan resumes operations

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

NISSAN Motor Philippines Inc. has resumed normal operations of its Sta. Rosa, Laguna plant more than a month after the Taiwanese-controlled company was forced to shut down due to a labor dispute.

In a statement, NMPI assistant vice president for corporate planning Valentino de Leon said the labor strike ended when Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas issued an order deputizing the Philippine National Police-Laguna to secure, maintain and preserve entry and exit at the NMPI compound.

De Leon said the company was just waiting for the Department of Labor and Employment's final ruling on its stalled negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement which was

the root of the company's labor troubles.

Labor had demanded improvements in their compensation package but NMPI demurred noting that their salary scale is one of the best in the industry.

While NMPI successfully petitioned the DOLE to issue an Assumption of Jurisdiction to prevent a strike, De Leon said union members affiliated with the Olalia-KMU implemented a work slowdown for two months. The slowdown cost the company P30 million. The union also resorted to "scare" tactics by threatening to harm NMPI executives and damaging company property.

But De Leon said there was still no clear indication on when the agency's decision would come out but added

that he was confident that the resolution would come out soon.

"The plant is now back at work, operating at normal capacity. Our parts and service operations are likewise back to normal," De Leon said.

NMPI's controlling shareholder, Yulon Motor Co. Ltd., Taiwan's biggest auto assembler and parts maker, had threatened to put the brakes on its assembly of Nissan vehicles in the country and shift to imports of completely built up units from Taiwan.

NMPI is the second local assembler hit by a labor strike this year. Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. incurred P150 million in losses after a labor strike shut down its Sta. Rosa plant for more than one week. NMPI markets the Nissan Sentra, Cefiro sedans and Nissan Ad Resort pickup.

P1.37 per liter cut in prices of oil seen

INDUSTRIALIST Raul T. Concepcion yesterday said oil companies should cut their prices by 77 centavos per liter this month and another 60 centavos next month for a total of P1.37 per liter.

"The oil companies have no reason to withhold another rollback this month because they have so far slashed their prices by only 74 centavos per liter when they should have cut their prices by P1.51 per liter," Concepcion, chair of the Consumer Oil Price Watch said in a news briefing.

He noted that prices were lowered by an average of 27 centavos per liter on Oct. 26, 24 centavos on Nov. 8 and 23 centavos on Nov. 17.

Further, Concepcion said a 60-centavo-per-liter rollback was expected on Dec. 21 as crude prices continued to go down.

Concerns of an increase in oil prices prevailed earlier this month when members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries met on Nov. 14 in a bid to agree to another cut in production.

But the Opec said it would cut its daily production by 1.5 million barrels on condition that non-Opec producers would cut their output by 500,000 barrels.

Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr., meanwhile, expressed optimism that another rollback was in the offing.

Perez noted that Russia, considered the largest crude oil producer outside the Opec, has decided to cut its production by only 50,000 barrels per day.

GOINGS-ON

Asia's procurement guru



VILLASEÑOR

GLOBAL business-to-business solutions leader Ariba has appointed Filipino procurement guru Charlie Villaseñor as managing director for its Asean region.

Villaseñor held various key positions in Caltex, Coca-Cola and 3M. He served as president of the Purchasing and Materials

Management Association of the Philippines (PMMAP) and was cited the Purchasing Manager of the Year by PMMAP. He is the founding-COO of Bayantrade, an eMarketplace in the Philippines involving the country's top business conglomerates.

In his new post, Villaseñor is promoting the adoption of Ariba's eProcurement solutions to help companies "find, get and keep the money" for their direct and indirect procurement purchases in a practical and cost effective manner that does not require suppliers to pay any transaction fees.

Fendwick bags AIC deal

AIC Empire Tower, one of the most prestigious structures in Ortigas Center, recently awarded its architectural finishing contract to H. Fendwick Inc. Located at ADB Avenue, Emerald Avenue and Garnet Avenue, the AIC Empire Tower designed by architect Roger Villarosa is the second major project of AIC Realty Corp. The first project is the best-selling AIC Gold Tower residential condominium also in Ortigas Center.

AIC Realty Corp. has endeavored to make efficiency and effectiveness as hallmarks of its commitment to innovative quality development, and they believe that AIC Empire Tower will live up to these principles.

Located right across Robinson's Galleria, the 32-story AIC Empire Tower is unique with a 10-story basement parking areas. It also features a hotel-like lobby, state-of-the-art units, elevators and function rooms.

MWC's \$65-M loan

MANILA Water Co. recently obtained a \$65-million loan from a syndicate of banks led by Banco de Oro Universal Bank as the lead bank and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Global Business Bank, China Trust Commercial Bank Corp., China Banking Corp. and Maybank Philippines as members.

The loan will be used to finance MWC's capital expansion and network rehabilitation program.

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Canon

Defying the odds

SQL*Wizard at 5:
Getting better and stronger

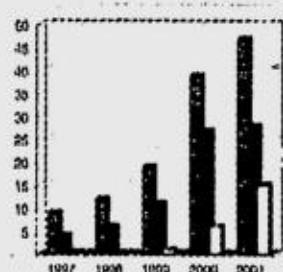
For a daring IT company that started five years ago today with just two employees and a bold dream to become a leader in a niche market, SQL*Wizard has lived up to its name. It has done amazing things that could only be expected of a real wizard.

FIRST, it started up when the Philippine economy was just catching the "Asian flu." Second, it defied odds for quick solid growth – recording impressive gains in the local market, during the economic slump, by developing and marketing better products and services. Third, it went public this year and blazed its way to a successful debut by posting a 48 per cent gain, and getting full subscription on its initial public offering of four million shares. In the process, it made history by being the first company to be listed in the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Board of the Philippine Stock Exchange last July 20.

Starting up through a partnership

Two former executives of Oracle Systems (Philippines) Inc., Albert Hermoso and Dina Salonga, joined hands to create SQL*Wizard, the company whose initial objective was simply to provide training and consulting services to Oracle customers. The company got its name from the industry standard language in relational database manage

Manpower Growth



ment called SQL or Structured Query Language, whose development has been greatly influenced by Oracle. It started operations in January 1997 with Siemens-Nixdorf as its first customer in a consulting agreement for a Bayantel project. The company held office at the Prince Plaza in Makati.

In April 1997, SQL*Wizard moved to larger quarters at Sagittarius Building to start its training program for Oracle customers. By year-end, the company had trained 293 students, completed four consulting projects, recruited six new employees and generated gross revenues of more than P8 million.

As if the economic crisis was an incentive for growth, SQL*Wizard doubled its gross revenue to P16 million – mainly from ten consulting projects and the training of 593 students – in 1998, the same year when it joined the Oracle Partner Program (OPP). As an official reseller of Oracle products under the OPP, SQL*Wizard was entitled to a higher commission rate and greater support from Oracle in terms of client referrals, marketing leads and assistance.

Highest priority

Nineteen ninety-nine was even more exciting for SQL*Wizard. Oracle upgraded the company's status to Oracle Certified Solution Partner (OCSF). The upgrade made the company the first OCSF in the Philippines and gave it the highest priority in selling to and servicing accounts not directly managed by Oracle. This was a big break for the company, considering that Oracle manages

only 22 of the hundreds of companies using Oracle in the Philippines. Under Oracle's new business model, all technology products – including servers and development tools – can be sold only through reseller partners. SQL*Wizard is one of four directly managed partners of Oracle partners focused on servers and development tools.

By the end of the year, SQL*Wizard had 21 employees, four of whom are Oracle Certified Professionals – technical people whose skills and knowledge as developers or database administrators have been duly tested and certified by Oracle. It has trained 497 students, completed eight major consulting projects, increased its customer base to more than 180 companies and grew its revenue by 150 per cent – to more than P40 million. To accommodate its growing staff, expand its training center, and enhance customer service to meet increased demands, the company moved to its present location at 88 Corporate Center in Makati.

Impressive training track record

SQL*Wizard's training services are instructor-led and focused a hundred per cent on Oracle technology courses. The company's training performance has been excellent and its track record quite impressive that Oracle designated it as the exclusive training center for Oracle Designer courses in the Philippines. In addition to handling Oracle courses, SQL*Wizard develops its own training materials for customized courses its training center offers.

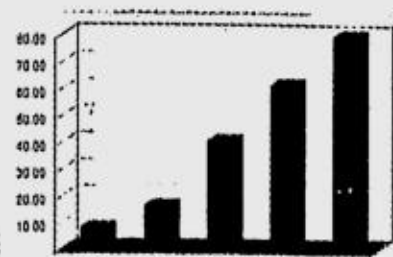
The company continued its growth last year, posting a 52 per cent increase in gross revenues against 1999 and almost doubling the number of its employees by year-end. During the year, the company trained 723 students and worked on 13 major consulting projects – three of which involved the use of Internet technology. These projects were in the implementation of a three-tiered architecture for a major transport group's freight online, reservations and ticketing systems; Java-based agency booking system for a leading media company; and a Web-based survey system for a large service organization using dynamic HTML technology.

Phoenix as a breakthrough

One of the breakthroughs in the company's operation was its development of Phoenix, SQL*Wizard's first packaged application software designed for general insurance. Developed entirely using Oracle technology, Phoenix is a comprehensive non-life insurance system designed from the ground up for use by insurance companies. The company also started developing its own accounting product initially made up of general ledger, accounts payable and accounts receivable.

Today, SQL*Wizard has three main products: Phoenix, Financial Wizard and E*Wizard. Financial Wizard is a user-friendly suite of accounting tools that delivers advanced solutions to meet business processes without sacrificing work quality. It is a general accounting package for local companies that require the reliability and scalability of sophisticated ERP systems for less cost. E*Wizard is a complete and integrated stu-

5-Year Revenue (in millions)



dent enrollment system containing modules with extensive inquiry and reporting capabilities that improve the student registration process.

To give its key initiatives greater focus, the company organized its consulting line of business into three main groups at the start of this year: the business intelligence and database administration, custom development and e-commerce, and implementation and support. It also spun off its product development group from the consulting group to make the former more focused in enhancing SQL*Wizard's current product line.

Customization Services

SQL*Wizard works across a wide range of customer requirements to help improve organizational efficiencies – by streamlining operations, cutting costs, improving customer service and satisfaction.

At Lufthansa Technik Philippines, SQL*Wizard developed and installed a cost accounting system to interface with the Oracle Financials. The system helps the company provide cost-efficient maintenance services for major airlines, including Philippine Airlines.

WG&A, one of the largest shipping companies in the country today, uses Nexus 2001i – a customized passenger reservation and handling system – and FOS (freight online system), an online cargo handling system, developed by SQL*Wizard. Quite similar to the airline ticketing and reservations system, Nexus 2001i is an online system deployed in ticketing offices. It enables WG&A to maximize passenger space by giving accurate, real-time information on bookings to the various ticketing offices for all WG&A vessels.

Equitable Insurance:
Phoenix takes the risk
out of investing on
automation

RISK is a permanent factor in the insurance industry. And many insurance professionals wouldn't be caught taking risks, especially if they involve relatively huge amounts. Equitable Insurance Corporation, a 50-year old company took a gamble and came out a big winner.

"We've been wanting to computerize our operations for so long," says Tony Ocampo, EVP and COO of Equitable Insurance. "And we 'gambled' when we awarded the bid to SQL*Wizard, which was just starting to market Phoenix. We agreed to be their guinea pig – the very first customer for Phoenix."

Two other bidders, both with products that have been in the market for a longer time, failed to win the bid. "One has a rather more expensive system being used by ten customers," Ocampo explains. "We chose Phoenix, despite its newness in the market. It has better features that are compatible with our operations. Besides, we were impressed by the expertise and professionalism of the SQL*Wizard team."

Ocampo, who has been in his job only for two years, has worked with another insurance firm. "I tend to compare the efforts we exerted in computerizing the operations of my former company," he says. "The project took five years and never really took off the ground."

SQL*Wizard took just ten months to complete the customization of Phoenix to suit the needs of Equitable Insurance.

With Phoenix, Equitable Insurance will go live with three products by January. By then, Ocampo hopes to solve all the problems that he feels have slowed down his company's growth. "With the little computerization before, the management team got very little information on production, claims and expenses," he explains. "In the insurance business, you need timely and accurate information on your operations to make the best decisions. Phoenix will soon give us all the information we need accurately, and in a timely manner."

Ocampo looks forward to being SQL*Wizard's showcase for Phoenix: "We look forward to a lasting relationship – as partners in selling Phoenix to the insurance industry."

FEU: E*Wizard provides
memorable learning experiences

WITH its 25,000 students, Far Eastern University (FEU) ranks among the biggest universities in the country in terms of population. And with this large population comes multiple problems in enrollment, student records and related data.

"We have always wanted to improve our enrollment system. We want to make it convenient for our students to enroll," says Fe Canilao, Chief Financial Officer of FEU. "However, because of our number, there would always be coding problems, wrong registration cards and other issues that would result in confused and delayed enrollment."

Wanting a lasting solution to the problem, FEU asked consultants for recommendations. The result was a decision to automate FEU's enrollment system.

"We wanted a system that would have the least negative effect on our migration from the previous system," Canilao explains, "so we decided to ask SQL*Wizard to do the job for us." SQL*Wizard came highly recommended because of its expertise in Oracle systems that were already widely used by FEU.

FEU decided to automate the enrollment system in two phases: (1), the development of a system for enrollment and student records, and (2), the integration of the students' finan-

cial records. Canilao says, "I must admit the implementation of Part I last semester was a nightmare. SQL*Wizard and our people were not able to anticipate some problems, and for a while, we did not know what to do."

Canilao worked closely with SQL*Wizard to pilot E*Wizard, an integrated system for student enrollment that contains modules with extensive inquiry and reporting capabilities. She also tapped FEU's Computer Services Department to iron out kinks. She reviewed organizational structures, assigned people to support groups and asked faculty advisers to train. She also met with the representatives of individual institutes and, with the support of the academic managers and SQL*Wizard's technical group, plotted the move to launch an integrated system during the second semester. The preparation involved cleaning the database, standardizing labels for subject and preparing the subject requirements.

While doing all these, Canilao paid extra attention to the business portion of the project. "Many of the student balances are contested by the students themselves," she explains. "We decided to add a facility that allowed them to enroll despite contested accounts. But at the same time

we managed to detect fake receipts and permits through E*Wizard."

Today, FEU has completed Part II of the project and enjoys the benefits of using E*Wizard. Student records are readily available and can be viewed online. Students do not have to wait until after graduation to get their records. And most of all, enrollment is now a breeze.

"Through all the tiring and trying times in the implementation, SQL*Wizard was with us," Canilao recalls. "I'm happy to say that they were not only after our money. They saw to it that what they gave us will work – and they did not leave us until their system worked."

Today, Canilao looks forward to the first semester enrollment next school year – when she expects an even easier enrollment in all the institutes in FEU.

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Philippine Geothermal, Inc., the local subsidiary of Unocal, tapped SQL*Wizard in the conversion of the applications and databases for their operational systems from DB2 to Oracle.

Sysu International, a company engaged in the manufacture and distribution of popular food brands, was SQL*Wizard's first client for custom development. SQL*Wizard developed Sysu International's raw materials inventory system.

Jaspaga, an electronic paging company, continues to improve customer satisfaction in the face of stiff competition, with SQL*Wizard's help. The company has installed a more efficient and reliable billing and collection system developed by SQL*Wizard. It hopes not only to handle customer complaints with dispatch but also to lessen complaints as a result of improved systems.

Business Partner of the Year

As if to underscore its growing reputation as one of Oracle's strongest partners, SQL*Wizard captured Oracle's Business Partner of the Year award for 2000-2001 by turning in a balanced performance in terms of revenue contribution, number of deals completed, number of new customers against its installed base, and self sufficiency in servicing customers.

With the infusion of additional capital from last July's IPO, SQL*Wizard hopes to further strengthen its operations and make the company even more profitable. The bulk of the P6 million from the IPO is being used by the company for product development.

Long-term strategy

"Our long-term strategy is to customize our software products so that they can be used across industries," Hermoso said. "Eventually, we will be a real software house that caters to the international market."

As of now, SQL*Wizard feels comfortable and proud of its accomplishments. It has earned the respect of the IT industry – both as an Oracle partner and as an independent solutions provider. The company's good track record is a result of its continuing aim to be its customers' "partner of choice in the delivery of enterprise business solutions."

Customer partnership and satisfaction

With customer partnership and satisfaction as its primary concerns, SQL*Wizard works hard to earn its customers' trust. "We go beyond mere client relationships to be a partner our customers can trust," says Hermoso. "We work with our customers, not as just another service provider but as a full partner in achieving the best solutions for them."

Salonga adds that SQL*Wizard does not stop at simply providing the best solutions for its customers: "We help them maximize their resources in the quickest, most cost-effective way possible."

SQL*Wizard Products

TARGETING non-life insurance companies, SQL*Wizard developed its first product, PHOENIX General Insurance System as a comprehensive non-life insurance system to fully automate the transactions that take place in the non-life insurance business.

Designed from the ground up, Phoenix integrates all the necessary transactions needed in the business into several modules. It also supports various product lines including fire, motorcar, accident, casualty, marine cargo, marine hull, aviation, engineering and bonds. PHOENIX was developed entirely using Oracle technology, protecting the system from obsolescence.

FINANCIAL WIZARD is a user-friendly suite of accounting tools that delivers advanced solutions to address business processes of companies while maintaining the quality of their work. A robust and scalable financial application, FINANCIAL WIZARD is a general accounting package, with the G/L, A/P, and A/R modules, for local companies who require the reliability and scalability of sophisticated ERP systems for less cost and with a smaller footprint.

The E*WIZARD is a complete and integrated student enrollment system containing modules with extensive inquiry and reporting capabilities to better facilitate the student registration process, and the consequent processes that follow it. E*WIZARD represents the most comprehensive suite of management software available to school administrators in universities and higher-educational institutions.

E*WIZARD

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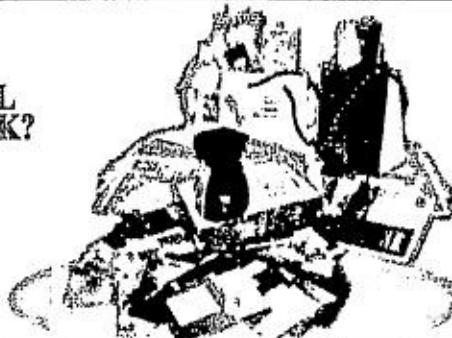






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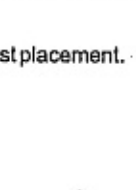
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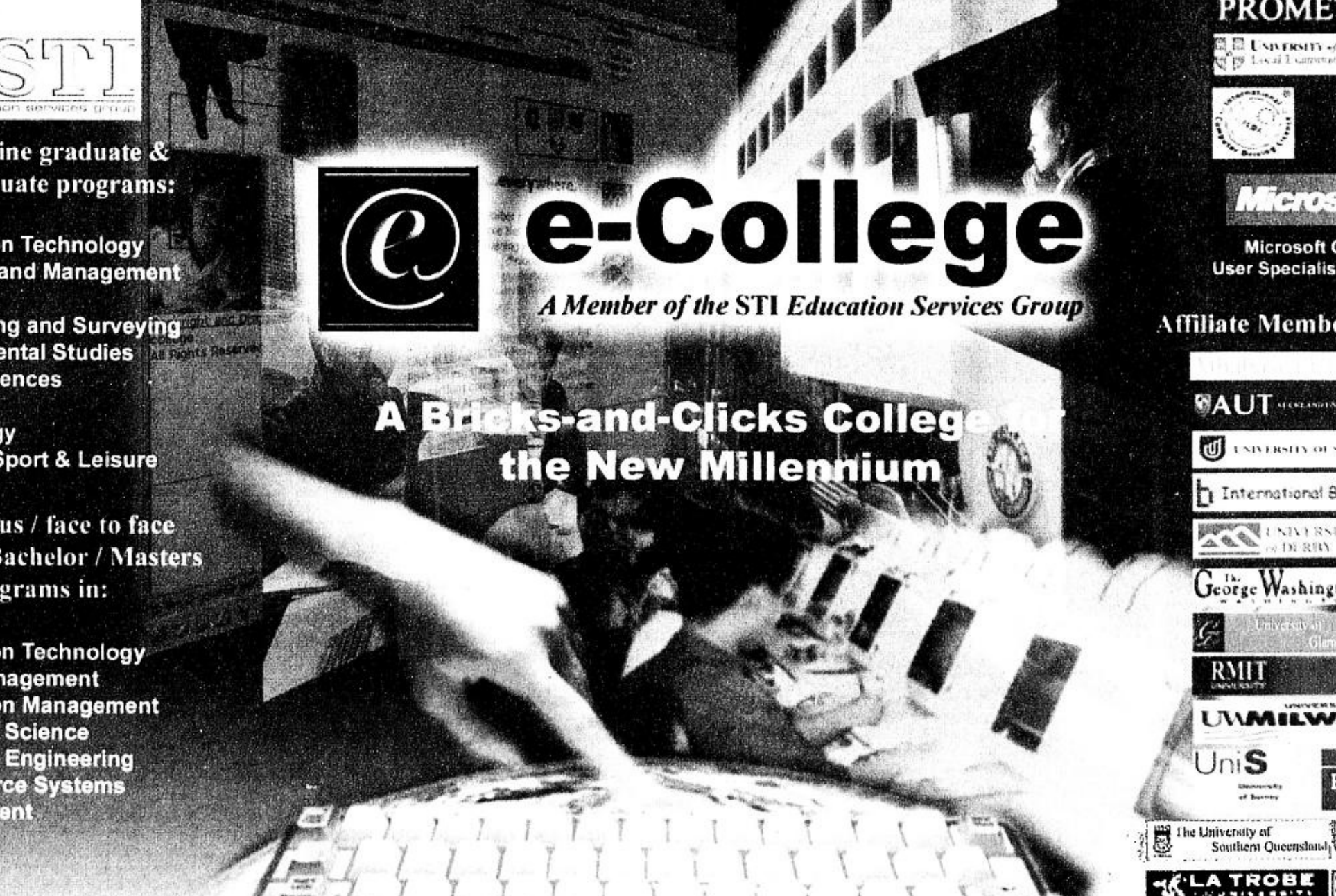
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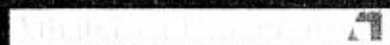




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UNWIND M/F Mkt 7520437	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	Eastwood City-Move In! 2br 4.6M neg rush 4121825	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	FEMALE
VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	New Manila Townhouse 2BRs 2TB 3.5M • 920-2001	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	F / Escort 1277-050804
REFLEXOLOGY	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	2BR U/D Nice T8743395 Onle	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 7284971
BANAW SPA M&F 7411426	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	Condo Sct. Grd Flr 75m² 2br/Mds Res/Off 2.3M 9202001	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	PART-TIME GRAPHIC ARTIST Call 742-1384
CAIRO CARLA 716-4898	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	Dona Juana Subd. Pasig P4.1M 3BR • 915-5177	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	MALE/FEMALE
Edward Reflex 7289285	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	For Sale Twhee Horsehoe 3BR • 915-5177	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	DIRECT HIRE OFC STAFF URGENT!!! 9134470 Glacy
Mr. NiceGuy/ 09173849954	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	Eastwood City-Move In! 2br 4.6M neg rush 4121825	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN Couple DH/Driver 5623962
Scorpion Massg 4372542	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	New Manila Townhouse 2BRs 2TB 3.5M • 920-2001	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	Ofc Staff 9134470 Ms. FE
Slmeon 4487002/09192401288	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	2BR U/D Nice T8743395 Onle	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	•OFFICE STAFF 9134470 GWEN
TUTORIAL LESSONS	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	Condo Sct. Grd Flr 75m² 2br/Mds Res/Off 2.3M 9202001	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	*Urgl OFC. STAFFS* Direct Hiring T-9134470 - Lorle
•Adept Tutors @ 8833671	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	Dona Juana Subd. Pasig P4.1M 3BR • 915-5177	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	Wanted: Male/Female Sales Rep. for Ind'l Prod. & Const. Materials Call Tyro Mktg. 533-5327 / 535-2920
LA LUZ 5268216/70	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	For Sale Twhee Horsehoe 3BR • 915-5177	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	PUBLIC NOTICES
HOUSEHOLD	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	Eastwood City-Move In! 2br 4.6M neg rush 4121825	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	ANNOUNCEMENT
HOUSEHOLD JOBS	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	New Manila Townhouse 2BRs 2TB 3.5M • 920-2001	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	SEMINAR ON IRIDODOLOGY/RE- FLEXOLOGY Tel 7300443/09174051539
BEST MAID 7111602/7115039	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	2BR U/D Nice T8743395 Onle	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	WHAT JESUS TEACHES Innerquest@yahoo.com
BEST MAIDS 8743305/8743265	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	Condo Sct. Grd Flr 75m² 2br/Mds Res/Off 2.3M 9202001	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
•BEST MAIDS W/NBI CALL 421-2938	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	Dona Juana Subd. Pasig P4.1M 3BR • 915-5177	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	Attn: Netwkr Mktg. Ldrs Great News! If Ur Not Earning Over 2007/m @ Ur Prnt Corp Bus. Lot's Talk Now 807-2359 Rash
Cook Maid Yaya Laba 8429807	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469	PASIG	9-10T/mo2own 2Bdrm Ready 4 Move-In Nr C5 D'Fort Mktl Libls Ortigas Call 09173568729	For Sale Twhee Horsehoe 3BR • 915-5177	Room 4 Rent Cainta Grnpark Nr. Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491	FREE	BAZAAR-MALL SPACES 4 RENT 633-9662 • 633-9295
GOOD MAIDS w/NBI 4215588	★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414	308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease						

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ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Loan Administration Software Package

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, intends to procure a software package and services necessary to implement ADB's core business in administering complex, multi-tiered, multi-currency, fixed and floating rate lending instruments. ADB prefers a pre-existing, market-tested software package solution. It is not ADB's intention to procure a custom developed software solution. It is also expected that the software package must be capable of being interfaced with ADB's existing, future and external information systems and integrated, where necessary and applicable.

Interested bidders must be in a position, whether alone or through a consortium of not more than two, to provide the required software, hardware and other ancillary services. The bidding is only open to bidders from ADB member countries. Further information including a brief description of the project and qualification criteria for eligibility may be obtained from the address below on or after **28 November 2001**.

Bidders who feel that they satisfy the eligibility criteria can purchase the Request for Proposal or Bidding Documents for US\$500 on or after **17 December 2001** as further described in the above-mentioned document, also from the address below. The deadline for submission of proposals is **4 February 2002**. While bids are being solicited, this procurement is subject to internal approval for the related budget. The ADB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation and delivery of bids. The Bidding Documents are designed to identify and document business needs of ADB. Issuance of these Bidding Documents does not represent a guarantee of ADB to pursue the project to conclusion in whole or in part.

Mr. Chong Hong Sum
Head, Procurement Section
Office of Administrative Services
Asian Development Bank
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City
0401 Metro Manila, Philippines
Fax: (632) 636-2577 or (632) 631-6899
E-mail: chsum@adb.org

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

In the Matter of the Change of Name in the Certificate of Live Birth Ma. Angelle C. Orocio

Petition Entry No. _____

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

The public is hereby notified that MA. ANGELLE C. OROCIO has filed with this Office a petition for CHANGE OF FIRST NAME FROM "MA. SOPHIE" to "MA. ANGELLE" in the CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF MA. ANGELLE C. OROCIO.

At the expense of the petitioner, let a copy of this petition be published at least once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of national circulation. Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said petition may, within fifteen (15) calendar days, file his written opposition with this office.

(PDI-Nov. 28 & Dec. 5, 2001)

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar



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WANTED
Wholesaler & Retailer
Tel. 8202777/09198669171

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **ROBERTO P. VALDEZ** is extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc. #158, Page #33, Book #44, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Lope M. Velasco.
(PDI-Nov. 21, 28 & Dec. 5, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **Omar A. Mustari** is extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc. #128 Page #225 Book #V Series of 2001 of Not. Public Atty. Ombawa B. Madum Lanaso Sur.
(PDI-Nov.28,Dec.5 & 12, 2001)

The estate of the late Basilio de Castro Fong was extrajudicially settled among her heirs Daisy DC Fong, Rossalia DC Fong, and Walter DC Fong on 11/16/01 under Doc. #35, Page #8, Bk #X, S-2001 of Notary Public Antonio Antonio G. Yao
(PDI-Nov.28,Dec.5&12,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that King of Kings Trans Inc. bus plate Nos. PYG780, 770, 830, 825, 835, PYV280, 693, 703, PYV426, PYL383, 373, 303, 323, 353, 767, 413, 403, PYJ727, 757, 303 & Don Mariano Trans Corp. Nos. PWL460, 470; PWZ132, 152; TVV420; PWA138, 148 178, 108, 188, 168; NLX988; PKR470; PUV438, 288, 218, 228, 258 were lost.
(PDI - Nov. 21 & 28, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that the following certificates of stock issued by Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. in the name of Sonia G. Mathay, Certificate of Stock Nos. 194, 195, 196, 197, 200, 214, 227, 240 and 273 representing a total of 54,683 shares have been lost. If no contest is received new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Nov. 28, Dec. 5 & 12, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL ARE NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH PRIME MANPOWER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, INC.:



Precious C. David



Jennifer D. Bravante



Victor M. Bayani



Karen R. Santos

THIS NOTICE IS FOR POEA COMPLIANCE

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100 Philippines • Telephone 925-24-01

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids, re: a) supply of labor and materials for the INSTALLATION OF MEDICAL WASTE TREATMENT & DISPOSAL SYSTEM and b) One (1) year contract for JANITORIAL SERVICES.

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of intent/co. profile
2. SEC registration
3. Bus. License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

**for add'l requirement, pls inquire at purchasing div. @ 922-05-74 & look for noem! All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before a) Dec. 14, 2001 & b) Dec. 7, 2001 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI-Nov. 27, 28, 29 & Dec. 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
ORIENTAL MINDORO
BRANCH XXXIX (39)
City of Calapan

IN RE: PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF MINORS RAFAELA FALIA U. MENDOZA AND MARY ANN U. MENDOZA,

JAMES R. BATTISTA and MIRAFLORE L. FAJARDO-BATTISTA, Petitioners.

ORDER

A verified amended petition having been filed by the petitioners, Spouses James R. Battista and Miraflore L. Fajardo-Battista, the petitioner husband being a citizen of the United States while petitioner wife is a Filipino by consanguinity, her parents being both Filipinos. Petitioner Miraflore L. Fajardo is now a naturalized citizen of the United States of America having acquired her citizenship since September 7, 1982 and now the petitioners have their temporary residence at P.O. Box 10077, APO, AE 96017 American Air Base, Germany, praying that minors Mary Ann U. Mendoza and Rafaela Falia U. Mendoza, both single, 13 and 14 years old, respectively, be declared for all intent and purposes the children of the said spouses by adoption and finding the said petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court orders that the petition be set for hearing on December 4, 2001 at eight thirty in the morning, before this court sitting at the Hall of Justice, Provincial Capitol Complex, Camailin, Calapan City, with notice to city and all persons interested to show cause, if any, why the same should not be granted.

The Social Worker Officer II of the Regional Trial Court of Calapan City is hereby directed to conduct a case study as required by Art. 33 of Presidential Decree No. 602, as amended, in the first instance and independently of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and thereafter, submit her report and recommendation to this Court pursuant to R.A. No. 8369, otherwise known as the "Family Courts Act of 1997" not later than December 4, 2001, the date when this case is scheduled for hearing.

ACCORDINGLY, let copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in an accredited newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, and let copy of this Order be furnished the Solicitor General, #34 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Alabang City, the Provincial Prosecutor of Oriental Mindoro and the Social Worker Officer II of the Regional Trial Court, Calapan City, for their information and guidance.

SO ORDERED.
City of Calapan, November 7, 2001.

(PDI-Nov. 14, 21 & 28, 2001)

(Sgd.) MANUEL C. LUNA, JR.
Judge

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
BUREAU OF TRADE PROTECTION

IN THE MATTER OF THE PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF THE SAFEGUARD MEASURES CASE AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF CERAMIC FLOOR AND WALL TILES FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES (SAFEGUARD CASE NO. 01-2001)

ORDER

The Philippine ceramic tiles industry, represented by Mariwasa Slam Ceramics and Lepanto (Guoco) Ceramics, filed a safeguard measures protest against the importation of ceramic floor and wall tiles, glazed and unglazed, from various countries. The protest alleged that ceramic floor and wall tiles are being imported in increased quantities and that as a result thereof causes serious injury to the domestic industry.

The period of investigation covered imports from 1996 to 2000. For injury determination, the Department considered relevant information for the same period.

WHEREFORE, IN VIEW THEREOF, the Department of Trade and Industry, acting under Section 7 of RA 8900, the "Safeguard Measures Act", found after preliminary determination, an affirmative finding that increased imports of the product under consideration have caused serious injury to the domestic industry, particularly in terms of declining market share, domestic sales and gross profits, increasing finished goods inventory and underutilization of production capacity leading to plant closure.

Pursuant to Section 8 of RA 8900 which provides that "in critical circumstances where a delay would cause damage which would be difficult to repair, and pursuant to a preliminary determination that increased imports are a substantial cause of, serious injury to the domestic industry" the imposition of a provisional measure in the form of a cash bond amounting to P5.40 per kg. shall be imposed for a period not exceeding 200 days from the date of the issuance by the Bureau of Customs of the relevant Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) on all importations of ceramic floor and wall tiles, glazed and unglazed, classified under HS Codes 6907.9000 and 6908.9000. However, the provisional duty shall not be applied to imports sourced from those countries which are already deemed exempted by virtue of the "developing country rule" as provided in the subsequent paragraph of this Order.

Considering that imports from Thailand, India, Sri Lanka and Iran are less than 3% of the total Philippine imports during the period of investigation, imports from these countries are, therefore, exempted from the application of provisional safeguard measures as provided in Rule 8.8 of the ITRs of RA 8900 (developing country rule).

Considering further that ceramic tiles is one of the products covered by the ASEAN-CEPT Agreement, as provided under Articles 6 and 8 of the said Agreement the Philippines is required to notify the Ministerial Level Council and to accord adequate opportunity for consultations with the governments of the ASEAN countries concerned i.e. Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, which may be affected by the application of provisional measures on imports sourced from ASEAN countries. Thus, for imports originating from ASEAN countries the provisional safeguard measure shall be imposed upon compliance with Articles 6.3 and 8 of the ASEAN-CEPT Agreement.

The case records will be transmitted to the Tariff Commission for formal investigation to determine whether or not there is a need to impose a definitive safeguard measure.

Let this Order be published immediately in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.
26 November 2001

Mar Roxas
MAR ROXAS
Secretary
(PDI - Nov. 28, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Office of the Secretary of National Defense (OSND) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements for CY 2002:

1. Building Janitorial Services
2. Pest Control
3. Servicing of Air-conditioning units
4. Foreign and Local Newspapers
5. Purified Water
6. Gasoline & other POL Products

Bidders are requested to submit the following documents/requirements for eligibility on or before November 26, 2001 at 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Procurement Branch, Office of the Administrative Services, DND, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, telephone number 911-8118.

1. SEC/DTI Registration
2. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership
3. Latest Business/License Permit (2000)
4. Audited Financial Statements (attach ITR) for the last two years
5. VAT Registration Certificate
6. List of clients for the last 2 years
7. Certification from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the National Labor Relations Council (NLRC) that no labor case has been filed against the bidder for items 1, 2 & 3.
8. List of Gasoline stations in Metro Manila, Baguio, Tarlac, Zamboanga City.

Inquiries for the details and particulars on instructions to bidders, bid documents, and other details shall also be provided during office hours at the Office of Administrative Services, OSND. A pre-bid conference shall be held on November 29, 2001 at 2:00 P.M. DND Physical Fitness Center, DND Annex, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of bid proposals and opening of bids will be on December 6, 2001 at 10:00 A.M. for items 1, 2 & 3 and at 2:00 P.M. for items 4, 5 & 6 on the same date at the CASPER Conference Room, DND Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to the bidders whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as Evaluated by the OSND Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (OSND BAC).

This invitation is also posted in the AFP Website at www.armedforces.mil.ph and DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurement-service.org. and at conspicuous places in the premises of the DBM Procurement Service and the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) Atty. RICARDO R. BLANCAFLOR
Assistant Secretary
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee
(PDI-Nov. 21 & 28, 2001)

VITAL

NOTICE AND WARNING

VITAL CHAIN BLOCK MFG. CO., LTD. of 2-2-9 Yasuda, Tsurumiku, Osaka, Japan owns the registered trademark with Registration No. 4-1994-98433 depicted above used on chain blocks, hoists, winches, and cranes, among other products. No person may use the VITAL trademark without the consent or authority of VITAL CHAIN BLOCK MFG. CO., LTD.

The public is advised to buy VITAL chain blocks, hoists, winches and cranes only from VITAL CHAIN BLOCK MFG. CO., LTD. and its authorized outlets and to look for the above depicted VITAL mark appearing on the label of VITAL chain blocks, hoists, winches and cranes to ensure that they are buying genuine quality products manufactured by VITAL CHAIN BLOCK MFG. CO., LTD.

VITAL CHAIN BLOCK MFG. CO., LTD. has confirmed that unauthorized parties are manufacturing, importing, selling or otherwise dealing in chain blocks, hoists, winches, cranes and similar products bearing trademarks confusingly similar to the mark owned by VITAL CHAIN BLOCK MFG. CO., LTD. VITAL CHAIN BLOCK MFG. CO., LTD. warns these unauthorized entities to refrain from manufacturing, importing, selling or otherwise dealing in chain blocks, hoists, winches, cranes and similar products bearing trademarks confusingly similar to that depicted above; otherwise, they shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

SYCIP SALAZAR HERNANDEZ & GATMAITAN
Counsel for VITAL CHAIN BLOCK MFG. CO., LTD.
SyCipLaw-All Asia Capital Center
105 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Roxas Boulevard cor. San Luis St.
Pasay City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that FCC (PHILIPPINES) CORP. (FCC) with plant site at the Laguna Technopark - Special Economic Zone (LTI-SEZ) has filed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) an application for **PIONEER STATUS** to be granted to its production 4R (four-wheel vehicle) clutch lining for automobiles based on newness of product and technology, which is approved, will entitle the company to six (6) years of Income Tax Holiday. Said application has been officially accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA (Tel. Nos. 510-2947; and telefax 551-3456).

Lilia B. de Lima
LILIA B. DE LIMA
Director General
(PDI-Nov. 28, 2001)

SERVANDO SAMALA RODRIGUEZ

OF BINAKAYAN, KAWIT, CAVITE

*Peacefully joined his Creator
and his beloved wife Anita,
on November 24, 2001 at the age of 76.*

He is lovingly remembered by his children **Raymundo, Norlinda and Roberto Legaspi, Rafael and Pearl;** grandchildren **Jennilyn and Allan Chan, Jasper, Laura, Noelle Anne, Elaine Marie and Sofia Mae;** great grandchildren **Lara Patricia and Jake Randall;** in-laws, nephews, and nieces.

His remains lie in state at the family home in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite.

Interment will be at the Binakayan Cemetery on December 1, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite.

AMELIA ESPIRITU ATOTUBO

(February 20, 1921 - November 27, 2001)

*Has serenely joined her Creator in his Kingdom
on November 27, 2001 at the age of 80.*

Her husband **Jesus (†)** and children **Ethelbert and Jocelyn, Eric and Tessie, Erol & Vivian, Annette, Ato & Amee, Amy & Danny, Roy & Julie, Emil & Rosalie, Edwin & Marissa, Vangie, Angelie & Sandy** and all her grand & great grandchildren and her brothers and sister **Renato, Christian & Edwin, Antonio (†) & Maris (†)** and the rest of the family request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal rest of her soul with her Maker.

Her body lies in state at the Royal Chapel of the Holy Trinity Funeral Homes, Sucat, Parañaque City. Interment will be announced later.

"I am the
resurrection
and the life.
He who
believes in
Me will live,
even through
he dies, and
whoever
believes in
Me will
never die."

John 11:25-36

ATTY. AUGUSTO "TOTOY" O. CASIBANG

MAYOR, PIAT, CAGAYAN
FORMER LEGAL OFFICER - CITY OF MANILA

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on 25 November, 2001
of Cardiac Arrest at the age of 65.*

His bereaved wife **Rebecca;** children **Cecile and Artem, Armando, Helen, Samuel & Marissa;** grandchildren **Louis Gerald, Lauren Gianna, Alfonso Gabriel, Luis Miguel;** relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Casibang Residence in Piat, Cagayan.

Interment will be announced later.

Our Beloved PAPA,

ELEUTERIO REVATORIS ROSAL, SR.

*Has peacefully joined our Lord on November 26, 2001
at the age of 92.*

His loving wife **FAUSTINA YUSON (†);** children **ABE (†) & Carmen, OYET, TETIN & Ote, NONONG & Lina, NENA & Onio (†), BINO & Chita, FOS & Salve (†), ON & Myra, FE, BOOTS, DIDI, LEL & Ouen;** sister-in-law **Dominga "MAMAY" Quiane;** grandchildren and great-grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence Concepcion Street, LIGAO CITY, ALBAY.

Interment will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2001 at the Ligao Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.



*An obituary with a picture
can be a fitting tribute
to your departed loved one.*

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
① Copy of Death Certificate
② Any identification document (I.D.)

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**DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN**

*In Loving Memory of the
First Death Anniversary of*

COL. EUGENIO M. REVITA (RET.)

January 1, 1927 - November 28, 2000

Masses offered at the following churches:

Saint Anthony of Padua Parish	Dec. 2, 2001 - 8:00 A.M.
Rosales, Pangasinan	
Our Lady of Fatima Chapel	Dec. 2, 2001 - 10:00 A.M.
Ortigas Greenheights, Taytay, Rizal	
Saint John the Baptist Parish	Nov. 28, 2001 - 6:00 P.M.
Taytay, Rizal	Dec. 2, 2001 - 8:45 A.M.
San Miguel Arcangel Parish	Nov. 28, 2001 - 6:30 A.M.
Jalajala, Rizal	Dec. 2, 2001 - 8:00 A.M.
Saint Ignatius Cathedral	Nov. 28, 2001 - 12:00 noon
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City	Dec. 2, 2001 - 9:00 A.M.
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace	Nov. 28, 2001 - 5:30 P.M.
(Our Lady of EDSA)	Dec. 2, 2001 - 9:30 A.M.
Parokya ng Immaculada Concepcion	Nov. 28, 2001 - 7:00 A.M.
Antipolo City	Dec. 2, 2001 - 10:00 A.M.

*The family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to
remember him in their prayers.*

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

BELEN MATEO SEÑA

who joined our Creator on November 19, 2001

convey our sincerest thanks to all those who condoled with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and message of sympathy, went to the wake and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and in many unknown countless ways, in the hour of our bereavement.

Seña Family

ANGELES "GELING" DIAZ VDA. DE CATBAGAN

*Peacefully joined her Creator on the 22nd of November 2001
at the age of 89.*

Her loving children **Gertie, Gloria, Madette & Melvin, Deo, Pat;** brother **Augusto "Totoy" B. Diaz;** relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Lucy Parish Church, Aringay, La Union.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 1, 2001 at Aringay Memorial Park after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

*"From darkness let
the light shine!"*

Genesis 1:3

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following
Application Forms for Life Insurance of MetLife Philippines, Inc. (MetLife Philippines)
were reported lost on November 15, 2001:

Traditional Policy Application Form Nos.:

0002	0142	0226	0608	0691	0746	0822	0938	1086	1144
0007	0143	0227	0621	0695	0747	0823	0939	1087	1145
0009	0144	0228	0622	0699	0750	0824	0940	1088	1146
0010	0145	0229	0623	0700	0751	0825	0941	1089	1147
0042	0146	0235	0624	0701	0752	0826	0942	1090	1148
0043	0152	0237	0625	0702	0759	0827	0948	1091	1149
0047	0153	0238	0626	0703	0774	0857	0979	1092	1150
0049	0154	0239	0628	0704	0777	0858	0980	1098	1151
0050	0167	0247	0641	0708	0778	0861	0993	1099	1152
0052	0168	0248	0644	0709	0779	0862	1001	1104	1153
0053	0169	0249	0649	0710	0785	0867	1002	1116	1154
0054	0170	0511	0664	0711	0791	0885	1029	1117	1270
0055	0171	0519	0665	0712	0794	0900	1037	1118	1271
0056	0175	0520	0666	0713	0795	0901	1053	1119	1274
0062	0184	0521	0667	0714	0796	0902	1063	1120	
0063	0192	0522	0668	0715	0797	0904	1064	1136	
0064	0194	0523	0670	0716	0798	0908	1065	1137	
0065	0202	0525	0671	0717	0801	0909	1066	1138	
0066	0203	0541	0684	0718	0802	0927	1067	1139	
0067	0204	0571	0685	0719	0803	0928	1068	1140	
0091	0208	0572	0686	0731	0806	0929	1069	1141	
0095	0209	0593	0687	0732	0820	0930	1084	1142	
0096	0225	0598	0688	0736	0821	0931	1085	1143	

Any transaction entered with the Company using the above application forms will not be honored.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following
Application Forms for Life Insurance of MetLife Philippines, Inc.
(MetLife Philippines) were reported lost on November 15, 2001:

Universal Life Policy Application Form Nos.:

000015	000108	000168	000227	000310	000394	000474	000494	000557
000076	000109	000170	000228	000312	000395	000480	000495	000558
000077	000110	000184	000229	000313	000396	000482	000496	000559
000078	000111	000185	000238	000314	000397	000483	000501	000560
000087	000127	000192	000244	000315	000429	000484	000502	000561
000088	000128	000193	000247	000340	000433	000485	000503	000562
000089	000129	000205	000251	000341	000439	000486	000504	000563
000090	000130	000209	000265	000383	000449	000487	000505	000564
000091	000131	000215	000266	000388	000450	000488	000536	000565
000102	000150	000219	000267	000389	000461	000489	000552	
000103	000158	000220	000294	000390	000465	000490	000553	
000104	000163	000224	000295	000391	000466	000491	000554	
000105	000168	000225	000302	000392	000467	000492	000555	
000106	000167	000226	000303	000393	000473	000493	000556	

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How to handle customer unfriendly staff

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO

RECENTLY, I was promoted to Customer Relations Supervisor. The position needs a lot of patience and understanding. But I sometimes lose control of myself. I feel so disappointed when a person does not take immediate action on a problem that's easy to solve and instead, makes customers wait for days. My company is an excellent one and it does not deserve people who are not dedicated in doing their work. How can I make them do their job well not only for their own personal satisfaction but also for the love of the company?

Customer Relations Supervisor

Most companies have problems encouraging employees to love their work especially if they are front liners in customer service. We agree

with you that the lifeblood of any business is the customer and therefore, he or she has to be treated with respect and provided with excellent service. In fact, one author even proposes that every customer should be converted into a "raving fan" to ensure the success and the growth of the business.

No temper tantrums

So, what can you do about your problem? First of all, keep your cool. The supervisor who goes into temper tantrums loses his or her dignity and the respect of the staff. I can sense the passion you have for your work. This is good because you become a role model for your staff to

follow. However, it is important to remember that you don't have to take each situation personally. This means that you don't have to consider it an affront to your person every time somebody doesn't offer excellent service. Look at the case as a professional problem to resolve.

Then, check the background of your staff and try to know each one, where they come from and what they bring to the job. Excellent customer service does not come about by simply wishing it to happen. There is an art to it.

Training

Determine your staff's current competencies in this area. Has your

staff undertaken customer service training? Is there a customer service system in place where the customer process is mapped out and standards clearly spelled out? If not, then have them take customer service training. If the process and standards are unclear, spend time with your staff co-developing them. Crafting the standards together enhances ownership and commitment. If these are in place, review them together—it may have been years since they last took a look at them.

Manage the performance of your staff as individuals and as a team. I still believe that every person wants to do good job. But a person may underperform, because he or she is underfed or undermanaged. Managing performance involves the PDCA (plan, do, check, act) process. Today, most companies espouse empowerment without preparing employees, therefore causing them to get frustrated and feel helpless on the job.

Planning

Take a look also at your planning process. Have you planned with your staff the goals for the week? What is the process they intend to take to achieve their goals? Many supervisors are too busy "doing" rather than "supervising." We know that best results come from doing supervisory work, therefore enabling you to achieve results through others. Find out at the end of the week whether the person actually achieved the goals. For best results, employees should receive feedback as to their level of achievement. Then together, you can work out areas of improvement. If you do



this on a regular basis, you will realize that the productivity and achievement levels in your team will rise.

Some supervisors and managers fear giving their staff feedback. Feedback, whether negative or positive, build strong supervisor-staff relationships. Staff resent not knowing where they stand in terms of performance and are often surprised by low appraisal ratings at the end of an appraisal period. Doing weekly feedback is in fact appreciated. From the weekly feedback, you will discover if there are obstacles that prevent them from doing a good job. These may be due to lack of tools or cross-functional disconnects that need to be ironed out.

Fun rewards

Finally, make the work fun. Some employees may respond to a serious sermon on doing their jobs with a sense of duty. But everyone responds favorably, if some fun is incorporated into the work. Use your imagination and think of inexpensive and informal rewards which will de-

light them. If a person keeps on exceeding standards, you might want to give him or her a "Certificate of Achievement." For the best customer service experience shared during a weekly meeting, you may want to give a bar of chocolates. Share your thoughts with your boss, he may provide you with a budget to fund some of your ideas.

Looking at the long term, try to influence your company's recruitment process for customer service people. We know that people have different temperaments and communication and service styles. Getting the right person with the appropriate service attitude from the moment of recruitment will go a long way in strengthening your unit.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

Accidental...

(From page B14)

Audrey Hepburn hand swing, check class cards like a police officer, and lecture without appearing like an MTV VJ who talks too much.

Handling a generation armed with mobile phones and camouflaged with hair color, I learned to deliver my lectures in a hip, unconventional way. For example, I likened a mechanism to Luke Skywalker's light saber and used a love letter for exercises in paraphrasing. Teaching became a romantic relationship replete with challenges and exciting new discoveries.

Not a typical job

This is my second year in the university and I am not sure if they will keep me or if I would still want to teach next year. I don't get paid like the senior teachers or like my friends who work in high-rise offices but I brim with pride of how much I have been able to accomplish.

Teaching is not like your typical day job, an 8 to 5 thing. It is like love in a Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero play, something like a "deep, silent affection and sense of life."

Once in a while though, it becomes boring like when I check students' papers and wonder whether the errors were Mac-driven or just characteristic of their writing. Or it becomes like slavery especially when I beat deadlines for the grade sheets. But as I said, these are just sandstones in a beach of infinitesimal joys and fulfillment (like when students compare you to a Ferrero Rocher or an angel, if they really like your class).

Seeds of eternity

My own teacher once said that a teacher affects eternity. Now I know exactly what she meant by that. The influence a teacher has on his or her students will not always be obvious but in time, you will know that you will be reaping the seeds you planted in their beings. And the day when they come back to you with smiles and gratitude will be just like getting a million peso reward in a quiz show. Or even more.

In a world full of wrath and anger, it is even more gratifying to be a teacher. You get the chance to contribute to enhancing the goodness in a person and making that person realize the things he can do to make the world a bit better. Although I must say I agree with a teacher friend who once said, "Life inside the academe may be crazy but it's better than being in hell." The insanity (administrative assignments, ghost writing, etc.) to me is well worth it.

I won't say that I will teach for a lifetime but being a teacher lets me see how it is to find one great love. I guess a teacher works on love. There are some moments though that, like some yuppies my age, I also long for a palm pilot and world peace.

(Send contributions to Postcards to reyes@inquirer.com.ph)

SIZZLING SUGGESTIONS

Do you have a great idea for a company Christmas celebration?

CAN'T stop Christmas, says Martin N. Can't stop office Christmas celebrations too, even in the midst of all the troubles we see. But companies are

in a dilemma: what's the best way to celebrate Christmas? One company organized a grand Christmas party last year and got criticized for holding such an ostentatious event in a period of political turmoil. Another company did not have any celebration at all and got sour grapes from its employees. The challenge is to have a Christ-

mas celebration that's relevant to the season and the times, and meaningful to the company and employees as well.



What then is the best way for a company to celebrate this season? Give us your sizzling suggestions. The best 10 ideas will get published in this section

and its authors will get a specially designed People at Work mug as an early Christmas gift. E-mail your ideas on or before December 4 to reyes@inquirer.com.ph.

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PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

Accidental teacher finds great love

BY M. CARANDANG

I BELIEVE in wonderful accidents like my being a teacher. It was never the kind of job I thought I would be in. It was in fact the farthest thing from my mind, as far as the distance from Manila to the Himalayas.

When people ask me why I opted to teach when my batch mates were in medicine or



POSTCARDS FROM THE CORPORATE EDGE

IT, I would simply say that I had an overdose of Dead Poets Society. But this is an oversimplification of the many reasons I have for actually becoming a teacher.

Shocking news

I was 23 when I left a promising job at

the House of Representatives to pursue teaching. It was shocking news

to my family (who were mostly in business) and friends (who were corporate professionals) to find out I was going to the university to teach. Their reactions were more like when fans of Woody Allen discovered his affair with his adopted daughter. Or maybe like Steve Martin in "Father of the Bride." They simply could not make sense of what I planned to do.

But I was not moved. I would say that probably my decision was partly because of my youth. It is always easy to blame youth for everything that agitates an otherwise

solid existence.

I packed my things, passed my teaching demo and found myself handling two technical writing courses and three English classes.

Colorful life

My first collective classroom experiences were like M&M chocolates. They were, to put it mildly, colorful despite some cracked bits and pieces. I trained myself how to use a chalk with an

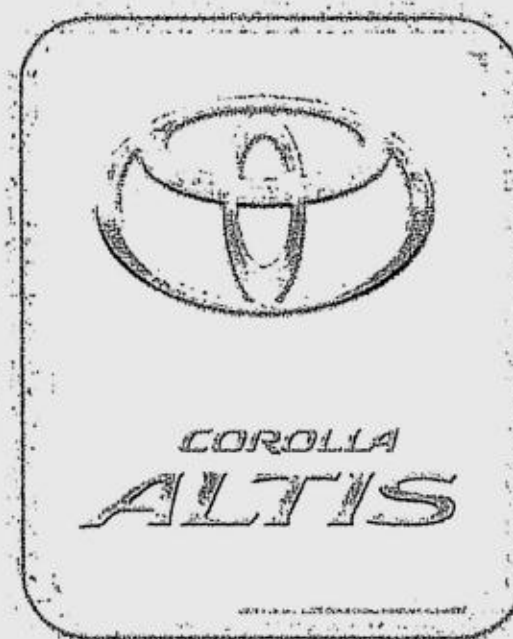
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Per DTH-NCR Permit No. 1831, Series of 2001

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f

December 8, 2001 at The Fort

WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 28, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

For feedback or suggestions ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ PAM PASTOR, Chief of Correspondents

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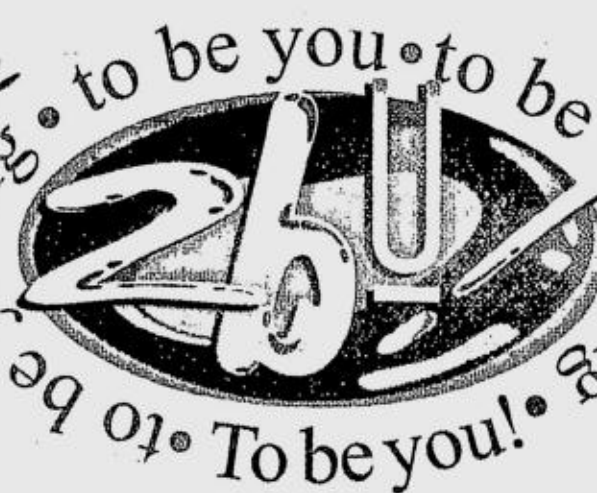
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Heroic page-turners

BY CATHERINE SARAH G. YOUNG
2bU! Correspondent

SOMETIMES, we come across books that touch us not just because of the excellent plots or the timely messages. These are books that strike us because the heroes capture our ideals—we can either relate to their character or see in them the qualities that make a "good" person.

Personalities, like heroes, come in different packages. According to the Enneagram, a geometric

They literally emerge from the pages—literary heroes who fire up our imagination

figure that maps out human personalities, there are nine fundamental types in which people can be classified. While the types overlap, there is basically one personality in every person.

• **The reformer.** Motivated by the need to improve himself and live the right way, the reformer sticks by his ideals and morals.

1. Crisostomo Ibarra in "Noli Me Tangere." Even though we were forced to read "Noli" in high school, we couldn't help but admire Ibarra for his ethics and ideals. He epitomizes morality during a time when



corrupt friars and sycophant officials of the Spanish colonial government ruled Philippine society.

2. Charles Evremonde in "A Tale of Two Cities." This book is set in the 18th century when France and England were on the brink of a revolution. King Louis XVI of France and the noblemen live dissipated lives while the peasantry suffers from poverty. Evremonde attempts to better the lives of his fellow Frenchmen, but ends up being tried for treason.

• **The helper.** Always the Mother Teresa, the helper seeks to express positive feelings. He is generous, warm, loving and adaptable.

1. Tom Booker in "The Horse Whisperer." Nicholas Evans' novel is about Tom Brooks, a rancher who possesses a certain bond with horses.

2. Melanie Hamilton Wilkes in "Gone with the Wind." Margaret Mitchell's epic novel has a minor character named Melanie Wilkes who portrays a quiet, subtle form of heroism as she deals with the hard times of the American South.

• **The achiever.** He strives to achieve his goals, motivated by the need to be productive and efficient.

1. "Jonathan Livingston Seagull": Simple yet impressive, this book deals with Jonathan's quest to fly in spite of his fellow seagulls' lack of encouragement. A classic success story in the form of a fable, Richard Bach's work brings to life the ideals of passion and self-motivation.

2. D'Artagnan in "The Three Musketeers." Few will forget one of the most famous protagonists in the literary world. He has been portrayed in countless films with different results. However, the versions don't fail to impress people with the character's courage and nobility.

• **The individualist.** The most artistic of the nine. He is romantic, introspective and highly inspired.

1. Howard Roark in "The Fountainhead." The book deals with architect Howard Roark and his triumph in asserting his individuality despite the tide of conformism.

2. Jo March in "Little Women." The most expressive of the March sisters, Jo is the writer of the family, not preoccupying herself with the things that girls her age usually do. She turns down marriage to her best friend Laurie, and seeks to practice her craft at a time when there aren't careers for women.

• **The investigator.** Intense and insightful, investigators concentrate on complex ideas. They are curious, practical and witty.

1. Sherlock Holmes. Arguably the greatest sleuth of all time, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's creation had such unparalleled brilliance and unfailing popularity that the writer himself had to resurrect Holmes. The first Sherlock Holmes mystery, "A Study in Scarlet," sold out in two weeks and set the stage for more Holmes mysteries to come.

2. Boy from "A Dog's Life." One of Peter Mayle's numerous bestsellers, the book is written from a dog's perspective. Named Boy, this charismatic canine with a witty, acerbic tongue provides a humorous account of living with humans. A not-so-typical hero, Boy is a model of adaptation and survival.

• **The loyalist.** This type believes in himself and in others. He is dedicated to causes. He is loyal, caring and earnest.

1. Bilbo Baggins in "The Hobbit." The prequel to Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings," "The Hobbit" deals with the journey of hobbit Bilbo Baggins, a group of dwarves, and the wizard Gandalf in their quest to take back the stolen treasure from the dragon named Smaug. It's a great adventure story. Originally written for the author's children, it has delighted mature audiences. But beyond the valiant escapades, "The Hobbit" is also a story about the evolution of Baggins' character—his self-discovery, his newfound independence, and, more important, his belief in himself.

2. Puck in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The story is set in Tuscany, where Hermia is in love with Lysander but is set to marry Demetrius, who is desired by Helena. This tangled web is made even more bizarre when fairies meddle in the business of mortals. For some readers, Puck, the servant of King Oberon, steals the show as he seeks to fulfill his duties and set everything right.

• **The enthusiast.** Motivated by the need to be happy, the enthusiasts like adventure. They want to contribute to the world. They wish to avoid pain and suffering.

1. Timothy Noble in "The Twelfth Angel." Twelve-year-old Timothy Noble is terminally ill, but refuses to give up on what he loves best: baseball. His struggles inspire his coach John Harding to see the value of living. This is one of Og Mandino's heartwarming and tear-jerking books.

2. Santiago in "The Alchemist." The book follows the journey of an adventurous Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of treasure buried in the pyramids. Ultimately, it is not the treasure that becomes important, but rather, the journey that leads Santiago to discover himself.

• **The leader.** Assertive and challenging, this type is self-reliant, strong, confident and decisive. This is the type of people who want to make an impact on the world.

1. Don Vito Corleone in "The Godfather." A popular figure in contemporary literature, Don Corleone evokes god-like qualities.

2. Domenico Clericuzio in "The Last Don." Another one of Mario Puzo's mafia installments, the book deals with Domenico Clericuzio, a blood relative of Don Corleone who seeks to establish his family in a more legitimate society. However, secrets from his family's past spark a bloody clan war.

• **The peacemaker.** Motivated by the need to live in harmony and avoid conflict, this type is patient, wise, emphatic, gentle and accepting.

1. Penelope in "The Odyssey." The long-suffering wife of one of ancient Greece's greatest heroes, Penelope embodies the "woman-behind-the-man" persona. Patient and faithful, she endures the years of waiting for Odysseus' return.

2. Agnes in "David Copperfield." One of the longest Dickens books, it chronicles the life of David Copperfield, his coming of age and his experiences. Agnes is a memorably character because she copes with her struggles peacefully.

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I need a hero!

BY CATHERINE YOUNG
 2bU! Correspondent

THE HEROIC films we want to take note of are not those about superhumans. What we want to emphasize are those that show the strength of the human spirit. These are the movies that glorify the humanness of their characters, embracing their strengths as well as their weaknesses.

'The Patriot'

Benjamin Martin (Mel Gibson) is a landowner forced to fight in the American revolution after the British kill one of his children. He leads a rebel American militia against the seemingly indestructible Redcoats, led by Colonel William Travington (Jason Isaacs). What haunts him from freely doing his patriotic duty is his dark past in the French and Indian wars, and the choices that he and his eldest son (Heath Ledger) make change their lives forever. Apparently, Benjamin Martin is a composite of many renowned freedom fighters in American history, among them, Colonel Daniel Morgan, Lord



General Charles Cornwallis, Francis Mano, Elijah Clark, Thomas Sumter and Andrew Pickens.

'Forrest Gump'

Forrest Gump (Tom Hanks) is a social misfit with an IQ of 75 points, five points below the threshold of the normal. What he lacks in intellect, he compensates for in other things. Forrest becomes a star football player (hence the famous line "Run, Forrest, run!"), a war hero and a successful businessman. What keeps him going is his love for his childhood friend Jenny (Robin Wright). He epitomizes one of the ultimate ideals: absence of evil.

'Gladiator'

The battle-tested and righteous Roman general Maximus Meridius (Russell Crowe) is entrusted by Emperor Marcus Aurelius to preserve the empire from intrigues and attacks.

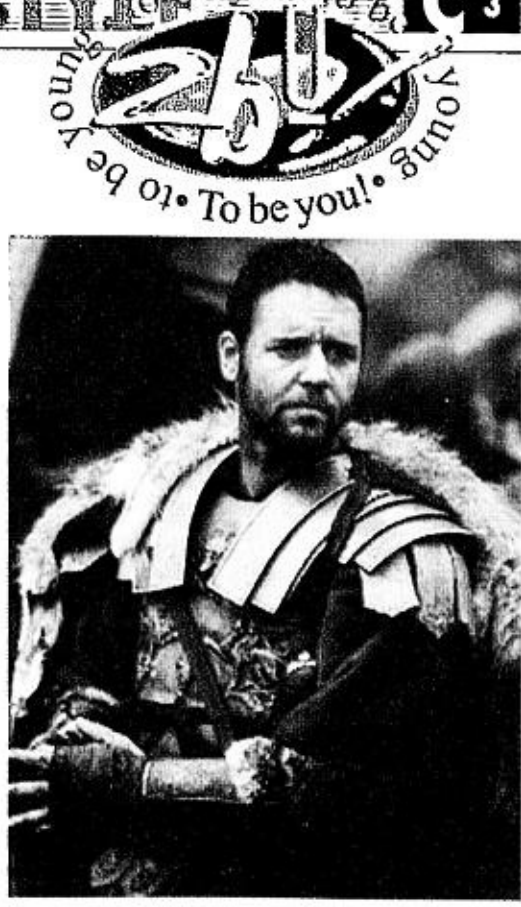
The jealous emperor's son Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix) kills his father and orders the execution of the general and the massacre of his family. Escaping death, Maximus is sold into slavery and becomes a gladiator. His feats in the arena eventually make him famous in Rome and reunites him with Commodus.

'Saving Private Ryan'

Captain John Mills (Tom Hanks) is a World War II hero who is assigned to Omaha Beach. After much bloodshed, the Allied troops gain a foothold of Omaha. But at this point, Miller and his platoon can't go back home yet. They are ordered to go back to dangerous ground to retrieve Private James Ryan (Matt Damon), whose safety has become a paramount concern for the US government since his mother has lost practically all her sons to the war. The movie's heroic quality: "decency in the sheer madness of war."

'Braveheart'

William Wallace (Mel Gibson) was the 13th century Scotsman who rallied his countrymen in the fight for independence against the English. The movie traces Wallace's life from the time he is a small boy up to his death. His father, believing in education, sends his son William to study abroad. William eventually decides to come home, and marries his childhood sweetheart Murron (Catherine McCormack). When she is murdered by the English, he fights back. While full of violent battle scenes, the movie talks of hope, courage, love and patriotism—the ingredients of a feel-good drama.



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Campus leaders try to get the youth moving again

BY LESLIE ANN TAN

LEADERSHIP is a gift and a responsibility. It is even more so for five student leaders in the sometimes-crazy, sometimes-idyllic premiere state university, the University of the Philippines in Diliman. As these five *iskolars ng bayan* try to make sense of life, of youth and of relationships, they also have to strive to make sure their leadership makes a difference.

Duke M. Bajenting, 21
Editor in chief, *The Philippine Collegian*
(The *Philippine Collegian* is the almost-80-year-old school paper of UP Diliman, with 15,000 copies printed each week.)

What do you think is the true mark of a leader?

There is no single mark of leadership or a combination of traits distinguishing a good leader. However, the leaders I admire generally



CHUA



VERA Cruz



ATIS

have strong moral fiber, the ability to think of alternative solutions to a problem, creative insights, emotional strength in the face of pressure, and the ability to admit it when they are wrong. As for mental capacity, I think wisdom, not necessarily intelligence, is the better mark of a leader.

As a leader, how do you make people listen and follow you?

You can't force people to listen to you or act in the way you want them to. But you can show them why one course of action is better than another, then trust in their ability to make the right decision.

What do you consider as your greatest victory?

I don't think leadership is necessarily about victory. That would imply some sort of zero-sum game. But if victory means "achievement," coming out with the school paper every week is a victory for all who are in the *Collegian*, given the variety of views that the staff embraces.

How much difference do you think can a

student leader make?

A lot, although the actual impact would be difficult to measure. Much of it would be intangible—the chance to stir fellow students out of apathy and into reflection, debate and involvement.

Grace T. Vera Cruz, 21
Chair, UP School of Economics Student Council (The UPSESC is the official student government of the School of Economics)

What do you think is the true mark of a leader?

I believe that a true leader must choose her battles and must stand up for what she believes is right.

And the greatest measure?

The greatest measure is the acknowledgment and respect that you receive from your peers and superiors.

As a leader, how do you make people listen and follow you?

I listen first. I find out what their strengths and weaknesses are, and what they are passionate about. That way I would know how to motivate and inspire them to listen to me and to do their jobs well.

Any other thought on leadership?

Leadership is not something you are born with. It is something you learn and work at each day.

Mark A.C. Herrin, 20
President, Inter-School Marketing Association (The IMA is the umbrella organization of seven different junior marketing associations of Assumption, De la Salle University, Ateneo de Manila University, UP Diliman, University of Santo Tomas, St. Scholastica's College and University of Asia & the Pacific.)

What do you think is the true mark of a leader?

I think that a true leader has to have the drive to make things happen. I also believe that a leader has to be able to motivate his/her people not just to do their job, but to want to do it, and to the best of their ability.

As a leader, how do you make people listen and follow you?

I believe that although the urgency of the matter makes people do what they have to do, making certain situations a win-win for all sides through compromise lets everyone know that you care for them.

How much difference do you think can a student leader make?

I think a student leader has a lot of potential in today's society. I believe that to be able to reach the younger generation, a student leader is the best person to consult and work with.

Any other thought on leadership?

Leadership makes room for error. Although success or failure is not because of any single person, a true leader should be able to accept responsibility (when things go wrong).

Farida Teresa C. Atis, 21
President, Junior Philippine Economics Society (The JPES is the umbrella organization of 13 economics organizations from 10 different colleges and universities in Metro Manila. The junior arm of the Philippine Economics Society (PES), it serves as a liaison between professional economists and economics students.)

What do you think is the true mark of a leader?

Dynamism. A leader sets the pace for every activity, for every endeavor to achieve a goal.

And the greatest measure?

The greatest measure of a leader is stability and unity of life. A leader has to create a balance. In order to do this, a leader has to know a little of everything.

What do you consider as your greatest victory?

I put a premium on relationships among people, so I believe my greatest victory is having earned the respect of my peers.

How much difference do you think can a student leader make?

A student leader, at the peak of his idealism, can make a big difference in shaping everybody's future. He or she can be a double-edged sword, either choosing to be eaten up by the rotten system, or making his idealism, his vision a reality.

Jay Jay Antonio S. Chua Jr., 20
President, UP Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants (The UPJPIA aims to promote and preserve the highest degree of competence among business administration and accounting majors.)

What do you think is the true mark of a leader?

I think the true mark of a leader is having people look up to you as their role model. People should follow you and believe what you say and do.

And the greatest measure?

The greatest measure would be achieving your goals without sacrificing your members' welfare. I believe that people are your best assets. And they should be really taken good care of.

How much difference do you think can a student leader make?

A student leader can make a big difference in the lives of other students. As I said earlier, he is the role model, a living testimony to others. If he does well, the organization and the members become better. If he fails, the organization and the members go down as well.

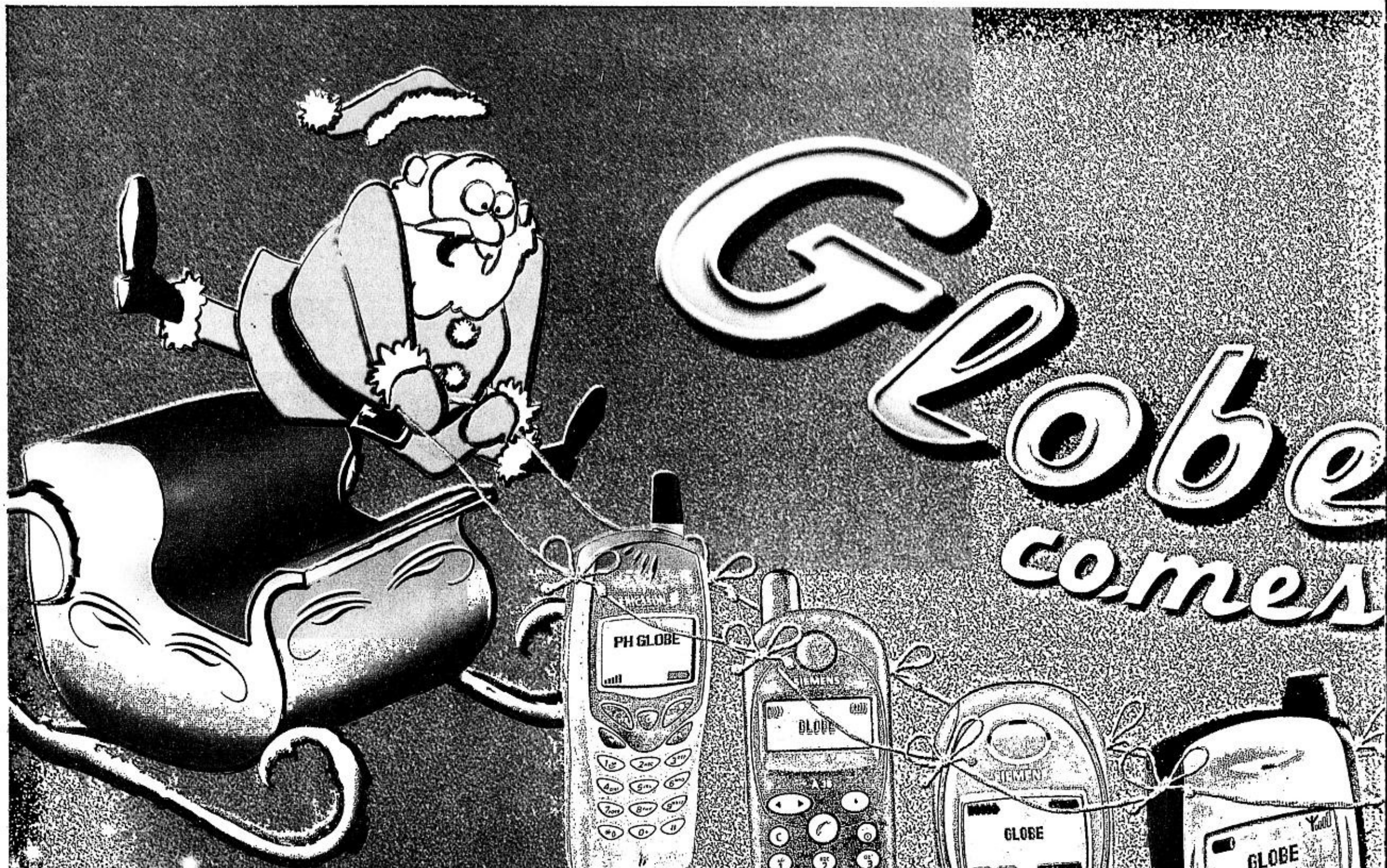
Any other thought on leadership?

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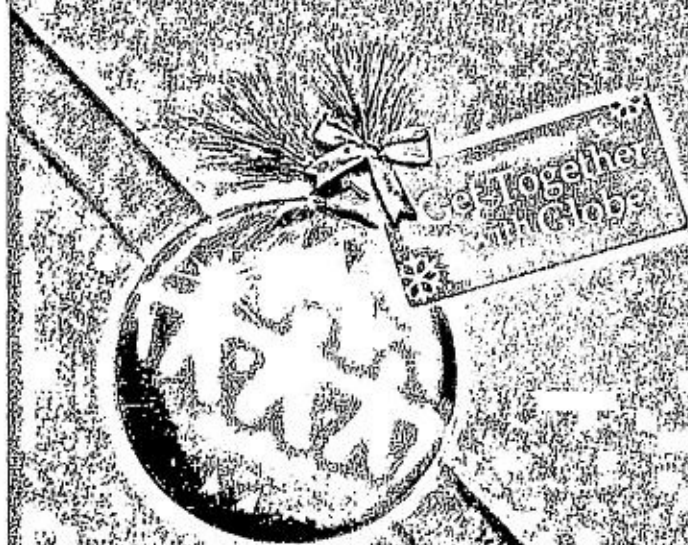
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2BU! SURVEY

Whether for help in a scrape or the right answer, who do you call?

The 2bU! polls are back with a vengeance. Here, the readers share their thoughts on heroes and lifelines

Who's your hero?

BY MAUI V. REYES
2bU! Correspondent

DID you ever pretend you were Superman, running around the house with a cape and your underwear over your pants and rescuing people in distress? Or did you dream that someday you'd be just like dad, a successful person with a loving family and a Mercedes Benz to boot?

This week 2bU! asks the question: "Who is Your Hero?"

My best friend, Ronnel. He always saves my a-- whenever I have problems.—**Patricia, 18**

My cousin. He gave me tickets to all three La-Salle versus Ateneo championship games!—**Liberty, 19**

My brother. I know he won't tell anyone my secrets.—**Stephanie, 18**

Bugs Bunny. *Kasi inasara niya lahat ng tao sa cartoons.*—**Wilfredo, 18**

My mom. I've always depended on her.—**Kathrina, 18**

My strong and sweet mom! She rescues me from the evils of the world. She's a superwoman!—**Pierra**

Conan the Barbarian. He's fierce like a lion and strong like a bear. He's fast like a cheetah, so enemies beware!—**Pancho, 18**

Michael Jordan. For his optimism, mental toughness and extreme competitiveness.—**TJ Manotoc, 24**

Josh Hartnett. He's not a typical Hollywood star with a big head. He's simple and he chooses films based on quality and not the paycheck.—**Rissa, 18**

My sister, Michelle. She's able to pass all the trials in life.—**Carla, 18**

My mom. While institutions are busy preaching and calling for peace, she's right there in the middle, working for that change.—**Nico Af, 18**

Spiderman. *Kasi cute siya.*—**Aurora, 19**

Batman. Unlike Superman, he uses his brains and not his superpowers.—**Det, 18**

Batman. He's the only superhero without superpowers. He's just rich.—**Helena, 15**

Cheesy, but it's my boyfriend. He puts my feet back on the ground and pushes me to walk whenever I stumble. If I refuse to walk though, he carries me!—**John's girl, 19**

Little Buddha. My life has changed drastically when I started following Buddhist principles. Thinking of Buddha gives me peace and happiness and none of that emotional roller coaster—one moment you're feeling high, then you're back to being guilty again. That's a shitty deal. With Little Buddha, you think of the natural flow of everything around you and appreciate its purpose in your life. And you just feel so compelled to give that goodness back to the universe. And you feel you're so much more a part of this whole giving and taking. For the first time in my life, I don't cower in fear of burning in stupid hell for lustful thinking or getting angry. With Buddha, *para kang may syotang steady. Di katulad ng ex ko, maraming arte, tapos ikaw ang laging mali.*—**Aia**

Jollibee is my hero, because he's bigger than Ronald McDonald.—**Jugs, 22**

Raistlin Majere, hero of the lance, Magus.—**Zach, 20**



LEN



BON



MELANIE



HERMOSA



WAWIE



ERIKA

PHOTOS BY TAMMY DAVID

The hero in my life... lifeline that is

BY TAMMY DAVID
2bU! Correspondent

ADMIT it... you tried to dial that 1-900 number to join the No. 1 game show on local television, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" You are one of the fanatics who miss dinner or meetings to watch and answer along with the contestant. You even scream "Tangaaa!!!" if the contestant doesn't get the answer right although he can't hear you yell from your living room.

I myself have fantasized that I am on that hot seat. I suddenly enjoy reading almanacs and surfing info sites ("This can be asked in round 6!") and think of strategies like how to save time ("Sinabi na ngang final answer yan, eh!") and which lifeline to use first. For my phone-a-friend lifeline, I'd call my Tito Nelson or my cool nerdy-geeky-smart a-- friends like Cathy, Miranda or Joni. But honestly, if I had his phone number, I'd call Mr. Knowledge-is-power himself, Ernie Baron!

So, who would you call as your phone-a-friend lifeline?

There's this guy friend of mine that I haven't called for months. Last I heard from another friend, *parang* he wants to die *na rin* because his girlfriend is sick.—**Mimi Tiu, 23, Candy Mag**

Hmmm... *Ako*, I'd call the *lolo* in the McDo commercial *para may comic relief yung show*.—**Blue Arden, 21**

I'd call my mom.—**Andrea Ocier, 18**

My dad *kasi* I would probably use my lifelines on questions that are from the past or about the past. Hehehe.—**Leidy**

My best friend, Christian, because he's well-read, well-informed, he knows practically everything under the sun... of course, that's an exaggeration.—**Ivy**

Probably one of these people: Sir Bugarin, my cluster head Gaile, my friend Pa3ck Maglaya. Maglaya was from UPM and a salutorian from Claret and Gaile is from UP.—**finl**

Of course, my dad because he's a brilliant doctor. Another would probably be Victor Icasasi, a friend of mine who is a computer whiz. I really feel sorry for UP for rejecting this guy because he just might be the next Bill Gates.—**Patrick**

Any of the following people: my dad Che because he's from UP, my friend Luis Tagarda, a political science major from Ateneo. Like Maglaya, he's from Claret, too.—**Al's**

If I were to choose I would most probably call Ernie Baron for the right answer. If he can't answer, then both of us will be losing face on national TV.—**BJ Collado**

I will call former President Erap because he knows a lot of issues and information that will provide answer to the questions, especially things that involve him.—**Gege**

I will call my friend's boyfriend. We usually watch WWTBAM and we get the right answers. He knows the answers to a lot of general info questions.—**Bunny**

I would call my friend in high school because he's a computer geek and I used to call him "the walking encyclo..."—**Lea**

I will call my friend in the United States or anyone abroad *para masulit naman! Andami ko ring nagastos sa katatawag sa trunkline nila!*—**Shayn Santiago**

I will call my friend in Edtech in UST. He screens and edits the questions to WWTBAM *kaya* he

will probably know the answers.—**PIC ni Shayn**

Sir Roda Molina, my Spanish teacher. He's a walking encyclopedia.—**Maui**

I'd call someone with a really fast Internet connection or a relative with a Ph.D. or one of those guys who recites so much [in class] that the teacher doesn't call them anymore or I'd get a potato head.—**Tibbz, 18**

My friends Eileen Lu for the weird trivia, Tammy for film, Ria Sebastian for math and Eleanor Uy for current events.—**Cathy Young, 18, UP**

William Panlilio for political-socio-eco-what-not stuff and Fabian Mangahas for weird, cooky trivia.—**Len, 18, AdMU**

Ernie Baron because he can't afford to give wrong answers or else he'll destroy his "all-knowing" reputation.—**Bon Virata, 19, UA&P**

Edu Manzano because he's the strongest link. Yeah!—**Melanie Guanzon, 14, SHS-G Cebu**

Dr. Dumol from UA&P *kasi doctor siya*. Dr. Kliatchko *kasi siya ang department head namin sa IMC* and Boy Abunda *kasi yung biz siya at nagpapakas-smart.*—**Hermosa, 20, UA&P**

My *angkon* (grandfather) because he is very, very smart. He's an inventor!—**Erika Hayco, 13**

My dad because he knows best!—**Janice, 14**

My friend Robbie *kasi* he's old and *marami nang alam* and Charlie Brown.—**Wawie, 18, AdMU**

I would call one of our college student officers, the one who would often come to me every single day and share his far-fetched ideas to improve our college.—**Giles Ivan A. Aquino, 21, Don Bosco**
With reports from Cheryl Tiu



JANICE



GILES

Small lives, heroic lives

BY MA. ANGELA V. IGNACIO
2bU! Correspondent,
Ateneo de Manila University

ANDRES Bonifacio. Himura Kenshin. Mother Teresa. That little old lady who quietly mops the floor outside your classroom. If you were asked to pick your hero from these choices, you probably wouldn't give the little old lady much thought. Sad, but undeniably true. When we see these people around, the word "hero" hardly pops up in our minds. But now, it's high time we start paying a little more attention to them; we just might find out there's more to them than meets the eye. Or what barely does.

Jill of all domestic trades

For most of us, waking up at 4 a.m. every day to do chores is about as ludicrous as swimming naked in a frozen pond. Not for Catherine Gatal, 25, who makes a living by doing just that, and I'm not talking about the swimming part. She cooks, cleans, does the dishes—you name it, she does it. She came to Manila nine years ago in search of greener pastures, and found a stable job as a domestic helper.

She finds the job to her liking because according to her, it entails certain benefits like having a place to stay and being able to save enough money without the hassle of paying too many bills. Meanwhile, she earns her keep by doing exactly what we "undomesticated" teenagers shrink away from the most—chores. When asked if she has any complaints, she says, "*Lahat okay lang sa akin basta kaya ko at marangal naman.*"

She has had unpleasant encounters with some employers, but that doesn't seem to faze her. In fact, she sees them as part of the learning experience. You make mistakes, you learn from them—what's important is that you can be of help, she says.

When the lights go out, literally

If you're in the Ateneo campus at night and happen to catch a glimpse of a shadowy figure moving inside the Communications building, chances are it's Mang Eddie



CATHERINE Gatal is a domestic heroine.



SECURITY guard Marcelo Sarmiento

making his last rounds and not the infamous "White Lady" that has been rumored to haunt the place.

Eddie Celestara, 57, has been working as a maintenance man at the Ateneo since 1964. He has received recognition for his services. His job is to make sure the classrooms are clean and all the electrical appliances are turned off when the last class has ended. Sometimes a night class or two will extend their hours a bit, which means his 1-9 p.m. shift will have to be extended as well. He's also the one who's in charge of locking up the place.

Mang Eddie enjoys what he does, and his 37 years of service is proof enough. He said the pay and the amenities are good, and his employers treat him well.

True-blue night owl

I'm pretty sure we all have pulled all-nighters at some point in our lives. Grueling, isn't it? Think again. Marcelo Sarmiento, 40, has been doing it every single night for the past year and four months now. He works as a security guard in a San Juan condominium, where he's assigned the 7 p.m.-7 a.m. shift.

Being a security guard wasn't exactly what he had in mind at first. However, fate took a different turn. "*Napamahal na rin ako dito sa trabaho ko,*" Sarmiento says. "*Nakakawili siya,*" especially when he sees pretty women passing by, he adds.

But there are drawbacks. There are times when he gets blamed for something he didn't do, when it wasn't his job in the first place. There are people who insist on going inside the compound and become outraged when Sarmiento asks for identification. He wishes that people would understand that it's all part of the job. As Lito Lapid's famous line goes, "*Walang personalan, trabaho lang.*"

Thankfully, he hasn't had any brushes with criminals. However, he inevitably comes to grips with his most fearsome adversary—drowsiness. Good thing it doesn't pose much of a problem, since there are usually two of them and they can take turns in getting some quick shut-eye. After all, they're only human.

Overall, Sarmiento has no gripes about his work, but he's still hoping for that increase in his paycheck (don't we all?). It's getting more and more dangerous out there, and it's people like him who make sure we get to sleep at night peacefully.



ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

The four H's of heroism

BY LISA SYLVIA M. SOBREVIÑAS
2bU! Correspondent,
Ateneo de Manila University

ABOUT HEROES, we can never have too many of them. To be a hero you have to have the important H's—head, heart, humility and hope. Easy? Wipe that smug look off your face. Be warned: having all these isn't easy. Let's talk about having a head. It's important to have a good head above your shoulders. You don't have to be a genius like Einstein was. But you've got to have enough sense in you.

Your head is there to help you understand that you exist not just for yourself but for other people as well. You have a head to enable you to think of ways to improve the welfare of everybody.

But what good is a head without a heart to keep you going? The heart is what inspires every hero to keep fighting, in spite of the hardships and ridicule he gets for serving people. The heart is what works with the head to balance reason with love.

Oftentimes, when logic fails you in your quest to help others, it is the heart that will take over. When trying to be a hero in your own little way seems to be too much of a mystery to people, it is your heart that will tell them why you'd like to

The hero must have head and heart, humility and hope

help, why you'd like to leave the world a better place. Of course, why you are willing to do the things you do is because of the love in your heart.

The best kind of hero is the hero who keeps his feet on the ground. I'm not saying it's bad to take pride in the good that you do for others. What's bad is to publicize the good that you do for the sake of applause and recognition. The hero must have humility.

Pride gets in the way of goodness. Pride makes you think of yourself only and makes you forget about others. It's important to be humble to earn and keep people's respect.

Hope is needed for the hero to hold on to his faith. Hope is the belief that despite obstacles, the hero's cause will prevail.

Real heroes fight for a good cause because they hope and believe that they will be able to make a difference. Hope is what keeps your head, heart and humility 100-percent efficient.

Hero's 'apo' hopes to follow in his 'lolo's' footsteps

BY RONALD LESTER LEYVA
2bU! Correspondent, DLSU-Dasmariñas

TWENTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD Adrian Rommel Aguinaldo Sañez does not think his name is a big deal, but he admits there is some pressure. Not surprising even if you belong to the fourth generation of a family that is an important part of the country's history, especially in Cavite.

Ryan, as Sañez's friends and classmates at the De la Salle University-Dasmariñas call him, is an apo sa talampakan of the Philippines' first President, General Emilio Aguinaldo. His grandfather was Aguinaldo's grandson, making her mother the great granddaughter.

"Sa una, 'yung impression, nakakatawa, parang nakakalaki ng loob," says the tall man with distinctive Chinese eyes, that seem to run in the Aguinaldo family.

Pride

Aside from the eyes, Sañez considers bravery a family trademark.

"Ayaw naming mga Aguinaldo ang natalala. Gusto namin lagi kaming nananalo. 'Yung aso kapag nasasaktan, lumalaban. Ganon din kami. Hindi kami nagpapatala. Ang angkan namin matatapatang."

He believes that his great grandfather has always been brave, whether or not he was wearing an *anting-anting* (as some people had wondered). This legacy makes him both humble and proud.

"Napakaswerte ko naman na lolo ko siya. Inisip ko nga kung bakit nagaganon. Sabi ko nga ang dami-dami namang pwedeng maging lolo, bakit si Aguinaldo pa? Hindi naman sa inayayan ko siya... pero tinatanong ko pa rin. Bakit 'yung iba hindi sila naging apo ni Aguinaldo?"

Asked if there was a bad side to the Filipino hero, he said he was brought up knowing only his ancestor's good characteristics and beliefs.

"Ang nakita ko lang 'yung good side n'ya. Hindi ko napag-aralan 'yung bad side n'ya. Wala namang magsasabi ng bad side ng lolo ko, 'di ba?"

Every Aguinaldo—and many Filipinos for that matter—know about the rivalry between two of the country's greatest men. In case you do not know, Aguinaldo was accused, in some historical accounts, of causing the death of



Andres Bonifacio because of their struggle for power. What he learned, according to Sañez, was:

"Sinasabi nila na lolo namin 'yung pumatay kay Bonifacio. Gusto mong ipaalam sa kanila kung ano talaga 'yung history; kung bakit namatay si Bonifacio. Ako minsan 'di ako makapagpigil pero inaawat ko na lang sarili ko para iwas gulo na lang."

The controversy particularly hounded him when he studied at Centro Escolar University, which is in Manila and, obviously, "teritoryo ni Bonifacio." Many of his former classmates would confront him about that part of Philippine history when they find out his full name. At first, the Aguinaldo great grandson wanted to prove the family's courage. After a while, however, both sides decided what was past was past. He left Manila without any incidents.

"Syempre 'yung iba makikilala ka as apo ni Aguinaldo, lalo n'ung nasa Manila ako. Tapos makikilala na nila kung sino na ako."

Outside history books

Despite his ancestry, the senior communication student had been asked only once to portray his great grandfather in an Independence Day presentation. For the much-hyped Philippine Centennial celebration in 1998, Jun Posadas, who was the director, initially assigned Sañez to play the role of the late leader in a reenactment of the Battle of Binakayan. After two rehearsals, his cousin replaced him because "masyado akong malaki. Iba ang

height at built ko."

Back in elementary, however, his teachers would ask him to share with his classmates in Philippine History what he knew about his great grandfather. He said books gave the facts, but he knew things that were not in the book, although they might not be considered substantial by others.

"Syempre basta tungkol kay Aguinaldo, alam naming lahat. 'Yun ang pinagmulan namin! Proud kami. Malimit sinasabi ko 'yung mga insights ko [sa klase]. Bibigay mo 'yung information sa kanila na wala sa libro," he proudly says.

The intramurals basketball player thanks his parents for shielding him from the pressure the family name generates. He lives a simple and humble life. With his lineage, the idea of serving the people is never too far from the mind of this Aguinaldo great grandson. He said of a career in a public service, "Naisip ko rin. Kasi dati naging SK (Sangguniang Kabataan) chair na ako sa barangay namin. Tinatanong ko nga... 'Ano kaya kung humaban ako ng councilor dito sa bayan namin sa Imus?' Pwede naman kaka kasi marami naman akong makukuhang boto. Pero pantasya ko lang ba!"

Dreams

Sañez often imagines fighting beside his great grandfather in those battles the hero fought for Philippine independence.

"Siguro, sasama din ako d'un sa mga giyerang nilaban nina. Syempre may pagmamahal ka rin sa bansa mo kaya ka sasama sa lolo mo. Tutulungan mo at ipaglalaban mo rin siya kahit papaano," he says.

He would like to be immortalized like his great grandfather, but he knows that not everyone can be a hero.

"Aba, oo naman! Lahat naman naghahangad na maging bantog para sa bayan mo. Maaring gayahin ko siya kung may darating na mananakop. Syempre, lalaki ako. Syempre unang tatawagin ang mga lalaki sa labanan. Gusto ko ring maging pinuno ng ating bansa," he says.

If becoming another hero is tough, Sañez can probably set his sight on another of his lolo's accomplishments. "Babaero ang lolo ko. 'Yung hulid asawa niya namatay n'ung 1997. Bibo 'di ba!"

E-mail the author at lifestyle_authority@hotmail.com



VERMI composting

Richard Tamayo has introduced waste segregation and recycling in Las Piñas amid a culture that is resistant to it



MORE livelihood products

A politician's son cleans up his act, literally

BY MARGOT AISSA C. TAN
2bU! Correspondent

RICHARD Tamayo is not a stranger to Philippine politics. As the son of former Las Piñas Vice Mayor Antonio L. Tamayo, he knows the politics is not exactly formaldehyde-clean. But this inspired junior from the UP School of Economics does not want to be affected by cynicism. And he wants to clean up his act, literally.

In 1996, Richard started a counseling organization, the Hope Empowers Las Piñas (Hope). He admitted that at the beginning, his intention in starting the project was to help his dad's campaign. But he said he had really wanted to serve and help the people in their family hospital and school, the University of Perpetual Help and Rizal Medical Center. He explained that his family has always helped the needy.

The family in fact has a foundation, Jonella, named after Richard's grandparents, which gives free medical check-ups and subsidized medical treatments to those in need.

Not easy

Life as a vice mayor's son was not easy. People looked at politicians as corrupt and as patrons of largesse. In fact, Richard's father ran for public office in order to alleviate people's perceptions of politicians. He ran despite slim



chances of winning because he wanted to help people and to change things.

Richard tried to help his dad by taking over some of his ceremonial duties, like acting as godfather in the baptism of local folk.

Hardest part

Today, even without his dad in public office, Richard continues his advocacy work. Aside from his studies and his student council work, he is preoccupied with environmental initiatives in Las Piñas. Through the help of his mentor Dr. Metodio Palaypay, who is one of the founders of the Zero Waste Movement here in the Philippines, Richard has applied the concepts of waste management in their school and hospital. They have been responsibly segregating

waste at its source into recyclables and non-recyclables, selling the former or using it as compost, and converting the latter into decor and other livelihood projects such as baskets and holders.

"The hardest part about everything was going against the culture," Richard said. "Filipinos have been so used to dumping everything in one place that they find difficulty and inconvenience in taking time out to segregate. At least now, we have been educating students and residents all over with flyers and teasers. It's really an endless campaign; it's not a one-shot deal. It's a process, a becoming." Richard is serious about waste segregation and recycling. "With the use of a certain machine, we want to convert infectious and residual waste into hollow blocks," he said. "We're going to study it... I want to give value into things that people just dispose of. More than just saving the environment we are also giving jobs and empowering people by giving them productive opportunities to show and develop their talents and skills. We want to set an example for people to follow; it is my hope that everyone would try to find ways and make it applicable in their respective communities and families."

Richard plans to take up law and get a masteral degree abroad. When asked whether or not he would choose to enter politics in the future, his reply was a sheepish, "I don't know."

Was it Plato who said, "One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors"? Well, Richard, take note.

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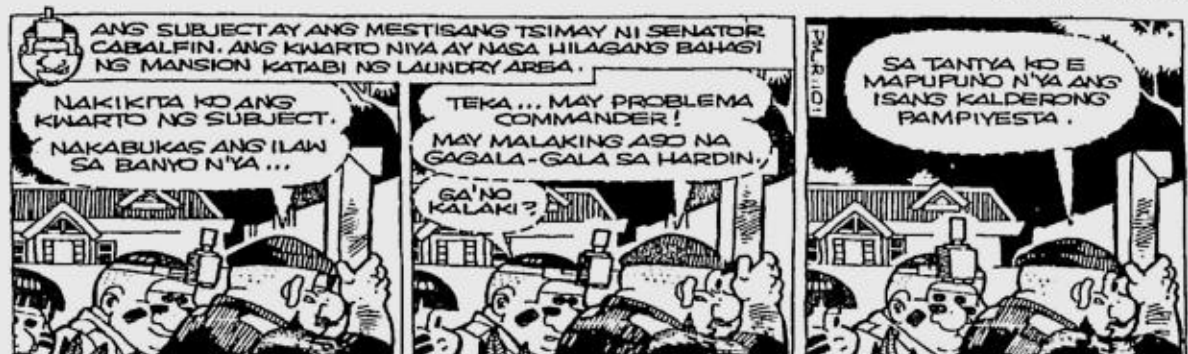
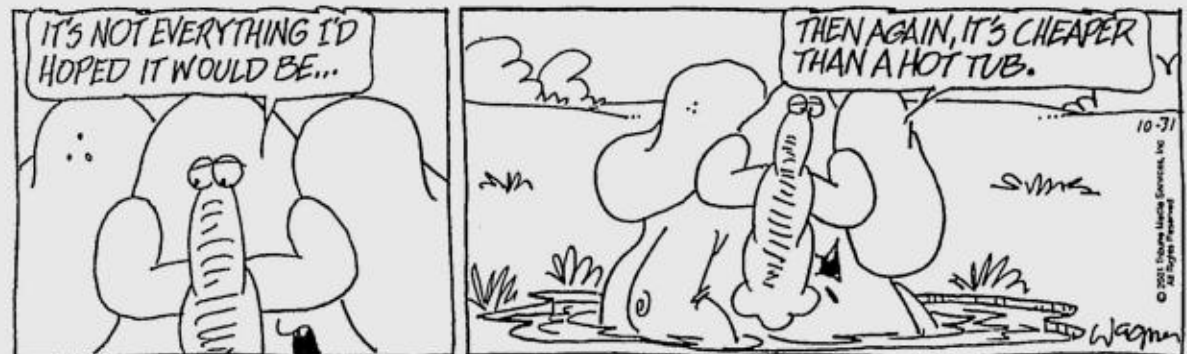


ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER

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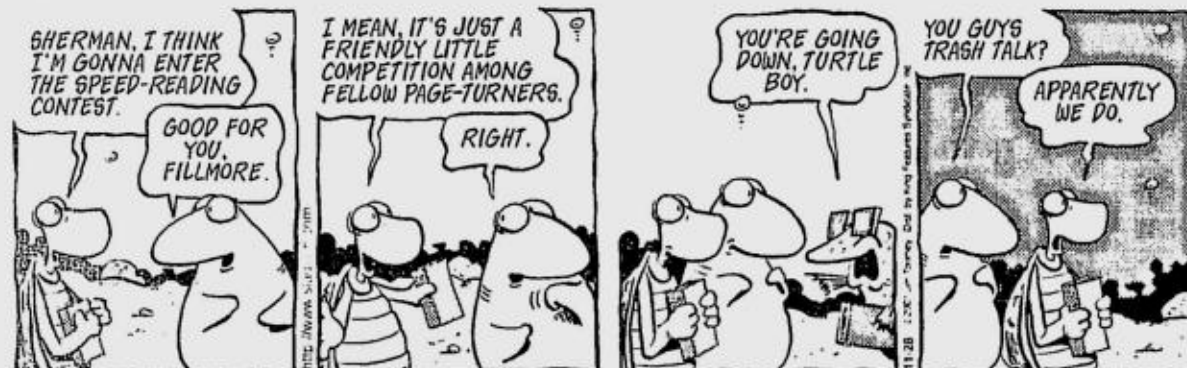


SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX



New scents that may tickle your fancy

THIS article would suit a person who shuns heady perfumes and doesn't want to spend an arm and a leg on light scents that don't stay. This is for those who want something that smells clean, light, reasonably priced and stays on. Recently, Esprit launched five new fragrances at Rockwell, and one of them may just tickle your fancy.

● For my dreams. Blue. Very Cool Water or Polo Sport. The ocean breeze inspires the scent. The gust of bracing sea air with the freshness of salt flower, complemented by a citrus and sea zone harmony is the top note. For its middle note is aqua fruit and water lily, and its lingering bottom note is a beach-wood base. Style personality: the sports-woman who is also a health nut or workout freak. She needs a scent that won't do battle with perspiration, but rather blend well with it. Of course, she loves the beach.

● For my spirit. Green. Forest greens with a hint of green tea. Similar to Elystium by Clarins and Green tea colognes. The scent is a breeze laden with moist forest scents. Aromatic cedar leaves and Siberian pine mingle with water lilies' delicate fragrance rounding out to a base of woods and fir balsam. Style personality: nature girl. She who loves the great outdoors or just can't keep still. Likes camping, golf and playing with children. A very perky personality; a morning person.

● For my peace. White. Posy of white flowers. Similar to Laura Biagiotti and Paco Rabanne Eau de Metal. The scent is a mixture of dewy freesia and peony for its top note, while the middle note is magnolia and casablanca lily. The bottom note that lingers is patchouli and white musk. Style personality: modern romantic and the epitome of femininity. She is calm, serene and regal. Makes no apologies for being a girly-girl. Her idea of exercise is Pilates or adult ballet.

● For my fantasy. Tan. A citrus and vanilla combination. The most edible smelling one and strangely brings back memories of childhood and grandma's kitchen. The scent is that of select fresh fruits (I suspect tangerines and grapefruit) with ylang-ylang, peony and heliotrope on a sweet warm base of vanilla, amber, woods and musk. Style personality: enthusiastic, creative and original. One who cannot be cooped up in an office. Most probably an artist, writer or somebody in a creative field and still in touch with her inner child. Into aromatherapy and the most likely hippie chick.

● For my senses. Red. Similar to Thierry Mugler's Angel and Lalique's Nilang. A fusion of crushed berries and a definite sweet smell of candy. The scent is a delicate musky, fruity fragrance based on a blackberry note, enriched with a blend of black currant, peony, ambrette, praline and musk. Style personality: the classy sophisticate and vamp. Doors magically open when she comes and she has the best tables in the restaurants. She is very successful at what she does and a born leader. The lady in the little black dress.

Reminder: My style personality profile is all for fun. What counts is your personal preference and body chemistry to the particular scent. Enjoy!

Prices: eau de toilette 50 ml spray—P1,295; body spray 150 ml—P795; shower Gel 200 ml flip-top tube with pH-balanced gel—P595; body Lotion 200 ml flip-top tube—P595; fragranced candle—P595; in-

Kinny Salas

cense sticks—P595.

For any questions, or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax 897-4805

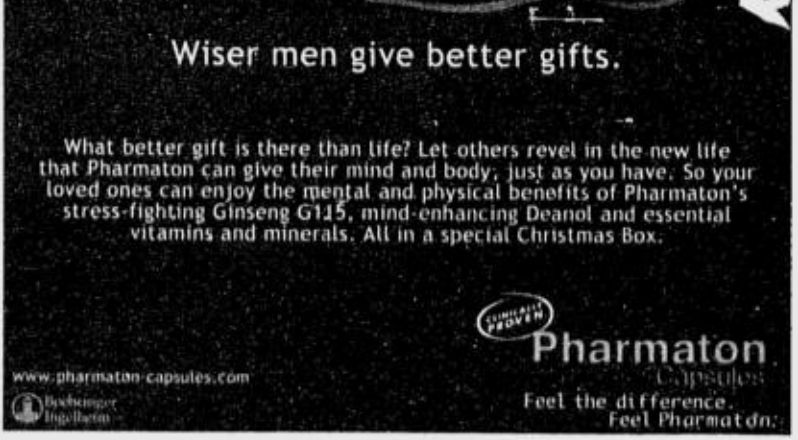
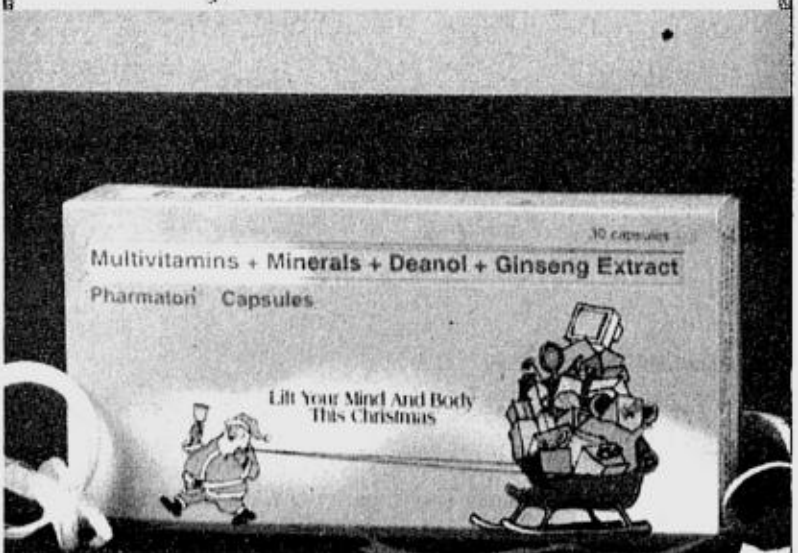
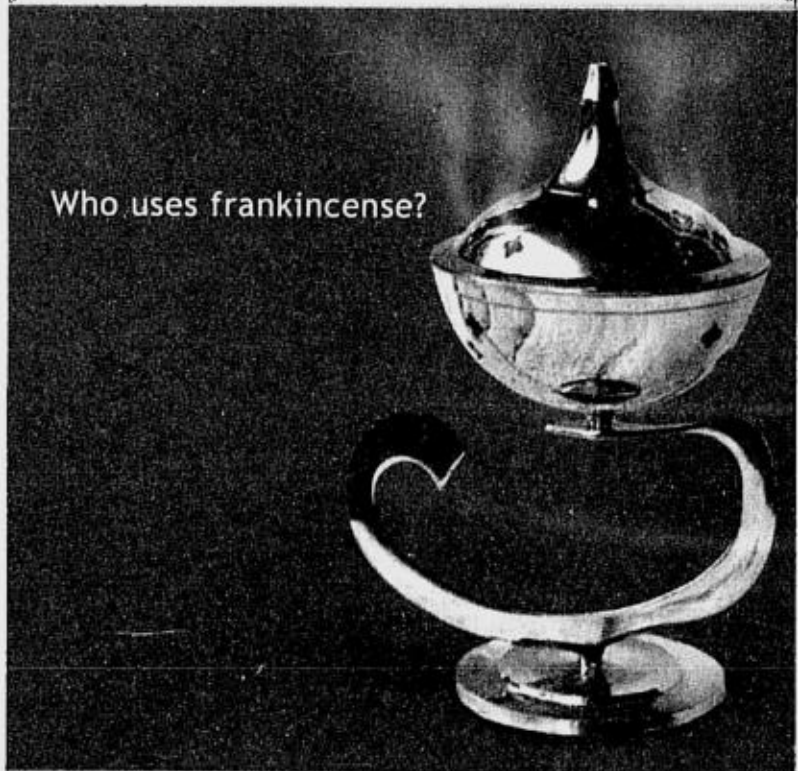
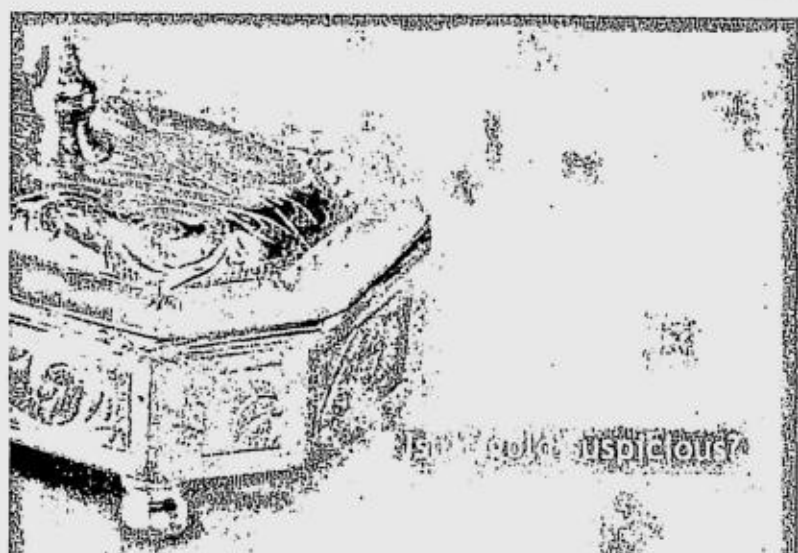


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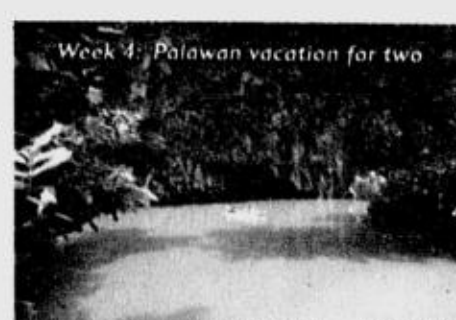
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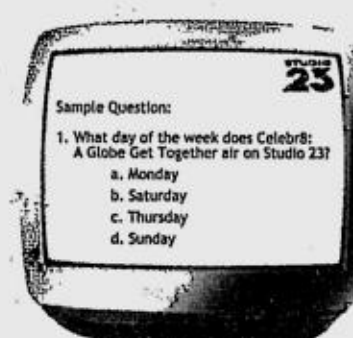


Step 3: Key-in your answer to all four (4) questions, along with your name and address. Follow the format shown below.

Format sample: 1C_2A_3B_4D_First Name_Last Name_Address



Step 2: Wait for the four multiple-choice trivia questions that will be flashed at random during the show.



Step 4: Send your complete set of answers to 2378. The hosts will give you the signal when to start texting in your answers. You qualify for the weekly and grand draw for each text message you send with the correct set of answers.



What else you need to know:

How many times can I send an entry?

You may text in your correct answers up to 20 times per show/week. On your 21st correct text message, you shall receive the text message: "You have exceeded the maximum number of entries. Please try again by watching the show next week. Thank you." Each text message shall be charged an entry fee of P10.00. Watch all four shows and send in as many as 80 correct entries.

How do I know if I sent in the correct answer?

If your answers to all four (4) questions, in each show, are correct, you will receive this text message from 2378: "Congratulations! You have the correct answers to our questions! You now qualify in the weekly and grand draws!"

If your answer is incorrect, you will receive this text message from 2378: "Your answer is incorrect. Please re-type the answers with the correct sequence and send to 2378 again."

So, only text entries with correct answers and its sequence shall be considered as qualified for the contest.

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For the weekly draw, you may text in your correct answers for each episode until the following day.

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Confessions of a text freak

BY PAM PASTOR

A LOT of my friends said that when they first heard about the Nokia Speed Text Challenge, I was the first person who came to their minds.

I shouldn't have been surprised. Yes, I am the resident text freak of whichever place I am in. I get bombarded with complaints from my text partners that they couldn't keep up because I "reply too fast." People—strangers, even—constantly make comments about how fast my thumb can work the keypad. "Para kang nagta-type sa bilis ah!" "Memorized mo na!" "Grabe 'to, hindi na nakatingin." And yes, I will admit it (although I will want to kick myself later because this will probably result in even more ribbing), I can text with my eyes closed.

Junkie

I am a text junkie—that I will not deny. My thumb power history dates back to four years ago, when the service was still free but there were too few people to text to. And while I have grown even more attached to SMS technology, to the point of feeling absolutely naked without my cell phone, I did not really appreciate the attention my texting abilities were getting. It was pretty embarrassing, actually, because these people kept noticing something that seemed so normal to me. I wasn't aware that I was texting faster than your normal text-addicted human being. Texting fast just seemed convenient—it wasn't something to be proud of. That is, until I realized that it could give me more than just anecdotes and quickly settled plans. It actually gave me a new phone.

Yes, I am now the proud owner of a Nokia 8250—and my thumb had worked hard for it.

The contest

I wasn't even sure I was going to the launch of the Speed Text Challenge. There were still a lot of things to be done at the Libre office. But since I thought no one else from PDI was going, I decided to sprint off to Glorietta and just dash back to the office right after the launch was over.

At the registration booth, the girl said, "Ma'am, sali kayo sa contest." I shrugged my shoulders, signed the form and let her put a red wristband around my wrist. I saw stands with buzzers on them—the Activity Center had been transformed into a game show venue. They were serious about it. I began to feel nervous.

I saw Anne from Lifestyle and sat with her. She wasn't exactly looking forward to the game either. I received a message on my phone and found out that Maui had been convinced by Karen from Meg magazine to go, too. Great. We weren't going to be alone.

Maui soon came running up to me, her blue hair flapping behind her. We headed for the buffet table. The game, which was hosted by Paolo Abrera and Suzi Entrata, started right after we finished eating.

The first batch of contestants was called forward. They were mostly veterans from different newspapers and TV stations. A message flashed on the screen and they began texting. Each of them had a Nokia representative beside them to make sure everything was legal. Maui and I started practicing with them and finished way ahead of the contestants. We actually stood a

THE SUPERGIRLS/ p.D2

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THE SUPERGIRLS OF TEXT

(From page D1)

chance.

The next batches got their turn and the fastest texters were led to a table where they would wait until they could compete in the final round. Maui, who is the fastest texter's fast texter (she makes even me say, "Slow down!"), was naturally the winner in her batch. "Ang bata kasi eh," I heard someone behind me say when Maui was proclaimed the winner.

Finalist

Soon, I was called forward. For some strange reason, my hands felt clammy. It felt strange having to text while tons of people (including a lot of curious Glorietta shoppers, photographers and cameramen) watched. After making sure my phone's dictionary was off (it's always off anyway), I had to set my phone to the "Write messages" screen and place my phone on top of the stand while the girl from Nokia watched me like a hawk (She was nice, actually—really rooting for me). With my left hand behind my waist and my right raised, I waited for the message to flash on the screen in front of us. "Can you text with one hand behind your back?" There it was. The sentence that could spell my doom. We had to text it without shortcuts and with complete punctuation marks. I heard the signal for us to start texting and I grabbed my phone. I think I stopped breathing. Every millisecond counted. When I was done, I sent the message to Globe 2379 and hit the buzzer. I was first. I sighed in relief. Mang Beto, our beloved photographer, said to me, "Namutla ka!" I was led to the finalists' table.

Maui and I started chatting with the other finalists. Believe it or not,



THE FASTEST THUMBS. (From left) Champion Maui Reyes, first runner-up Pam Pastor, Nokia Mobile Phones Philippines country manager Parikshit Bahsin and second runner-up Garlio Garcia from Studio 23

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

in those moments, I actually forgot to be nervous. Soon, we were called to come forward again. I got the same stand and the same girl. Cool. Expecting a more difficult sentence this time, I was surprised to see this on the screen: "Get your registration forms at authorized Nokia dealers." Okay. And we were off. I fumbled a couple of times—and again I wasn't breathing. Message sent, I hit the buzzer a few times. I was done. We waited for judgment.

Garlio, a girl from Studio 23, came in third and got herself a Nokia 6210. I was second and received my now beloved 8250. Maui is now radio-happy with her Nokia 8310.

We posed for pictures. I usually hate cameras but hey, shoot all you want, I was pretty happy about my new phone.

My brother the text maniac

Wow. Just a few hours later, I

bade my 3330 goodbye and passed it on to my brother Powje whose 8250 was taken away by a hold-up man some months ago. Now my brother, that's another story. I may text fast, but he just rules. Even before we heard about the Speed Text Challenge, we'd have texting contests in times of extreme boredom. I am an amateur compared to him. He can text "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" in 15 seconds flat. He joined the elimination round in Glorietta the day after I won and he got in. He's joining the semifinals on Dec. 15.

As for me, I'm happy with my new sleek phone. And if Nokia ever cooks up a game for people who can text with their eyes closed, I have one thing to say—bring the blindfold on.

E-mail the author at cookie.doughjunkie@yahoo.com

Goodbye 5110, hello 8310

BY MAUI V. REYES

WASN'T even supposed to be there. Karen Vera of Meg magazine insisted I should go, since I was the fastest texter she knew. I was feeling a bit down the past week, so she thought a little game would perk me up.

I had seen the commercials about the Nokia Speed Text Challenge and its prize (Nokia 8310), and knowing how materialistic some teens are when it comes to phones ("I have to get the latest model!"), I knew it was going to be a big hyped-up thing. Personally? I just purchased a sleek new 6210 last week after my 4-year-old 5110 conked out for the gazillionth time. Whenever that 5110 of mine would die on me, anyone with me would say, "You need a new phone." And I'd say, "I'm not getting a new phone unless I win one." I've heard about press events where Nokia gives away phones during raffle draws. The bottom line is, I wasn't expecting to win anything, and was dragged by Karen and Mega's Alexis Aldeguer to Glorietta to check out the event.

Fast-forward after a crab-fat pasta dinner and an "Irish-band-only" cover show band (hey, they only played the Corrs and the Cranberries!). We were called in groups, and only one person would move on to the final round. I felt like I was in a game show; episodes of "Greed" and "The Weakest Link" entered my head, and I felt like I had to introduce myself with a cheesy line ("Well, Paolo and Suzi, I really wasn't supposed to be here!"), and say that, yeah, I'd like to take a shot at winning a million bucks. But what I was told was to text with one hand, have my other hand at my back (not in my jeans' back pocket, just at my back), and to buzz after the message was sent. The message? A sentence that would flash on the screen, which we had to memorize, since it would be erased and replaced with a shot of the contestants desperately pounding on their phones' keyboards.

I was practicing before my name was called, and I knew I was a goner. I was always missing out on words, thanks to my great memory. When I won in my round, I thought, "Oh, great, now I'm going to be the last to buzz in during the final round and everyone in Glorietta will witness it." I was going up against Pam, and Pam was a faster texter than me.

The final message was something like, "Register your phones at authorized Nokia dealers." My "watcher" couldn't even read the message correctly. Thankfully my memory didn't fail me at this crucial moment—I typed the message as fast as I could, sent it and buzzed in at 19 seconds (or somewhere around that time).

Let me tell you this—I had never won anything in my life. So seeing my name as No. 1 on that humongous TV screen made me want to jump up and down that little podium I stood on. Pam won second place, and I teased her that if I didn't go, she would have won first place. The Nokia president awarded me the phone, a brand-new Nokia 8310. I told him I just bought a new phone last week, and he told me I should have waited until today. Yeah, okay, like I'd really win this contest with my Jurassic 5110.

So I guess I did win a new phone, after all. I'm not quick to sell my new 6210, though. I mean, we haven't bonded yet (so to speak). I guess four years with a 5110 paid off well.

And, of course, I have Karen to thank for dragging me there.

And Pam, really, if I didn't go, you would have won first place...



"OH, my God! Oh, my god..." Maui texts away.

READY, GET SET, TEXT!

If you think you can face the challenge, you still have two game sites to try your luck in: Fiesta Carnival, Araneta Center (Dec. 1 and 2) and The Strip, Katipunan (Dec. 8 and 9).

All Nokia mobile phone users may join—except those who own models with the QWERTY keyboard like the Nokia 9000, Nokia 9110 and Nokia 5510. Registration forms are available at authorized Nokia dealers. Filled out forms together with valid ID with picture and signature must be brought to the elimination round sites. Elimination will start

at 11 a.m.

The semifinals will be held at Robinsons Place Padre Faura Atrium on Dec. 15 while the championship will be held the next day.

Non-winning finalists will receive P3,000 and Nokia gift packs. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth runners-up will each receive P5,000 and a Nokia 3310. The second runner-up will receive P75,000 and a Nokia 6210. The first runner-up will receive P100,000 and a Nokia 8250 while the champion, the fastest texter of them all, will bring home P200,000 and a Nokia 8310.

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A different kind of basketball heroics

BY JULES ALCANTARA

ENRICO Villanueva for the heroes issue of 2BU! You're kidding right? asked one of my Atenean friends.

The 64th UAAP season may be over, but apparently people have not gotten over the outcome of the finals. To be more specific, college ball fanatics still have not gotten over how the famous center of the Blue Eagle fared miserably in the dramatic Game 3 of finals. The likes of Mark Cardona, coach Joe Lipa and UAAP president Anton Montinola might have hogged the headlines during the season, but down the wire, it was Enrico whom everyone could not stop talking about.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the house is definitely divided when his name comes up.

Hey, I should know. I may have screamed myself hoarse cheering for the team of my favorite Blue Eagle (and that's my boyfriend if you must know), but if I did lose voice over Enrico, it was because I was throwing an expletive or two his way during games. He's a great player, but he is such a thug, I would tell my boyfriend. His basketball career seems to have been marked with one-game suspensions for getting embroiled in fistfights during a game. He could have been awarded the MVP in the last three years if it weren't for the suspensions.

Mayabang, maangas—these were words that more often than not were associated with him. Even if my jaws would literally drop every time he would execute those awesome power drives and lay-ups, I would still rant about his inability to perfect a simple free throw. His dismal performance in what could have very well been the most important game of his college ball career further strengthened my impression of him. The fact that even my friends from Katipunan shared the same sentiments gave credence to all of this.

To put it simply, I was not a fan.

Armed with raised eyebrow and a long list of issues, I was more than ready to match wits and intimidate the "infamous" Enrico Villanueva. I was ready and armed to the teeth.

So much for that. First he was anything but a thug. Charming, refined and soft-spoken, he was a far cry from what I thought he would be. And as we conversed, it dawned on me that he was not just putting up a show since he was talking to a member of the press. Truth to tell, it was even a bit disconcerting to hear him get sappy and sentimental as we talked about school pride, his teammates (from the past and present) and even his love life. He was candid enough to admit that they have no more excuses for next year's UAAP season.

And why not? He won his first UAAP game. It is just fitting that he ends his career with a championship trophy in hand.

When you were a kid, did you ever imagine you would become a basketball player?

Actually, no. Back when I was a kid, I would watch PBA and UAAP. I remember watching Adamson beat Ateneo and I remember telling myself that *sana lang*, I could play. But I didn't really expect anything because during my grade school days, I was really a bench player. As in zero seconds.

Who were the *sikat* players during that time?

BJ (Manalo) was already *sikat* at the time. Yup, way back in grade school *pa lang*! Together with Eric Yao who used to play for Xavier. *Talaga* even way back they were really *sikat* already. Wesley Gonzales also.

What did you want to become when you were a kid?

Actually I had no idea *talaga* in the beginning. In high school *pa-rang* I was thinking I just wanted to work. Ordinary *lang*, you know. Be in a high-ranking position. Then after a while, I had this opportunity to play basketball so I grabbed it. Then I met some people from different backgrounds like business and politics—different types of people. And so I got exposed to other ideas and opportunities. But the main thing *pa rin* for me is basketball. If I could play ball then I would play professional ball. But

Even defeat requires a certain measure of dignity and heroism

eventually I want to put up a business in the future.

Are you planning to go professional someday?

I'd give it my best shot. But if it doesn't happen, then okay *lang*.

What's your most memorable game? Game 3?

(Laughs) It would be the Ateneo—La Salle juniors game in high school. I was in third year *lang* that time and the game was in Araneta and I dunked. Imagine in Araneta and there were so many people watching. It was BJ who passed the ball and I dunked it.

Everyone was talking about that famous picture of you and BJ hugging after Game 3. How do you feel that you and BJ are identified with each other? Did you really fight?

With BJ naman hindi naman ako nagalit, eh. Nagtampo ako pero hindi naman umabot sa point na *di ko na sya kakausapin*. Siyempre si BJ *pa rin* 'yun, *di ba?* Para sa akin hindi naman dapat masira 'yung friendship dahil nag-La Salle siya.

So there was really a gap?

In the beginning, of course. Pero okay na. We would see each other during "gimmicks" and stuff. Last year I made *na rin* the effort to talk to BJ. In fact, we would always have reunions *kasi love na love namin* 'yung batch 97.



SEASON HIGHLIGHT. Enrico Villanueva hugs BJ Manalo.

We would have it in BJ's house.

Statistically you would have been MVP in the last three years except that you always get suspended.

Baka mag-"four-peat" na ako! (Laughs)

Why do you get involved in on-court brawls? Are you hot-tempered?

I only do something when I see my teammate is *dehado* and if what is happening on the court is already out of place, then I'm going to fight back. I feel bad *din*. Actually *ang medyo* stupid was this year—the one with Rolan (Steven Rolan of Adamson Falcons). I got so pissed off that's why I hit him. *Ang sama ko*, 'no? Well, *kasi* he was trash-talking and hitting me on purpose and I guess I just got really pissed off. The one with James Yap and Booker last year, that one I really had to do

something. They were everywhere and they were picking on Andrew (Cruz, his teammate) who was alone. I had to do something. I couldn't let my teammate be alone.

They say that there is favoritism in your team and that you're one of coach Joe's favorites. In fact, they say you're quite spoiled. How do you feel about that?

Sabi nga ni coach Joe, walang estrella sa team. Before we were able to get away with skipping practices and scrimmages. But when we found out that Joe Lipa would be coaching the team, I got scared. For a while, *natakot ako talaga*. Then afterward, I guess I got disciplined. *Wala naman sigurong favoritism*. He can see *naman* our performance during practices and if the coach trusts you then you can't do anything about that. You can't say that's favoritism. But on and off the court, *panatay-panatay lahat yan*. But you can't avoid it—some players really have to play. *'Di mo naman pwedeng ipasok lahat, eh*. That's a given.

What happened in Game 3?

I was there in Araneta early that day. As in *wala pang tao*. I was shooting and sinking baskets. (Pauses for a moment) I don't know what happened. During the game, I couldn't make a single basket. I was begging to God to please give me a basket. I was there in Araneta early and I was shooting like anything. I guess that was too much. *Naubos*.

Well, true that can happen. How do you feel that afterward, everyone was blaming you?

Some people were even saying that I sold the game.

I find it hard to believe that you would sell out your team.

I know. The people who know me well know that I would not do such a thing. I would do anything for Ateneo. It really hurt that some people thought I would do that. Yes, it's true I didn't play well, but *ang team*, team 'yan.

'Pag natalo, sama-sama tayong talo. Walang sisihan. Ang team dapat togetherness *pa rin*. 'yan. The thought of that was what kept me going. I just thought of that because otherwise it would destroy you, literally.

But that's the burden you have to take. You are the star player of the team and you have a greater responsibility.

I tried my best and it didn't work. Some people were even saying that you choked.

Wala namang *ipag-cho-choke*. Buti sana if I was scoring, then I couldn't make baskets after.

But you know, people will always blame someone. If DLSU had not won, Ren Ren Ritualo would have also been blamed.

Either way someone is going to get blamed. *Ang daming tao niyan* and they are going to have their own opinions. They are going to blame coach Joe or me or even Richie Alvarez.

Well, at least now you guys will have championship experience that some say you lacked this year.

Yeah. We really have to prepare for next year.

How was it in the dugout after that game?

We were *nag-iyak*. Rainier (Sison) was so down. He went home straight and locked himself up in his room and *natulog na siya*. After a while we noticed that *umuwi na siya—'di man lang nagpakita sa amin*. All of us went to his house *para lahat kami magkakasama*. That was something that was really important for me. *Na kahit talo kami magkakasama pa rin kami* that the unity was there. We went to his house *tapos nag-caroling kami* and the lights of their house nag-open. We went to his room and woke him up because he was *tulog na talaga*. He dressed up and we left. We went out the whole night and we went home 9 a.m. the next day.

The next day? What did you guys

do?

We played Counter-Strike. As in the whole night! Ayaw naming maghiwalay *kasi 'pag mag-isa ka magisip ka na*. 'di ba? For three whole days we were like that! 'Pagkagising namin we would go out *kaagad*. It was either we played Counter-Strike or we went to Eastwood to drink coffee. The clincher was when we went to Boracay. Originally only three of us were supposed to go. Then Rainier decided to come with us then *sunod-sunod na*. Some of the other players didn't have enough funds so I said *kailangang sumama lahat*. We called some friends to sponsor some of them. Except for Paul (Tanchi) who had to leave for the United States, *talagang buo kami*. Gec Chia who was in Zamboanga that time followed. *Talagang nabuo kami*. We were there for four days.

In some online forums, some people say that you are one wild guy? Any truth to that?

(Laughs) I don't even know where that came from.

Is it easier for you to court a girl since you're a basketball player?

That's such a stereotype. *Siguro* we have an edge *kasi kilala*, but then that can even work to our disadvantage. *Pagdating sa ganyan mahiyain ako*. I've only had three girlfriends. All of them long-term relationships.

So what's your plan for next year?

After graduation, I'm really going to prepare for the season next year.

Okay, so you won't see me flashing posters and placards saying "Go Enrico" next year. But anyone who can muster enough courage and dignity even in defeat like Enrico deserves more than applause. I may not have become a fan overnight, but in my list, Enrico is a hero.

E-mail the author at jules_alcantara@pinoycentral.com

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It's the girls' time to shine

BY WALTER ANG

MOBs greeted me at all three gates of the Araneta Coliseum. Parents were screaming at guards because they were not being allowed in for the Johnson's Pure Essentials Teen Cheer Competition.

I waited for the crowd to disappear before going in. When I asked one of the women at the gate, she muttered something about it being "standing room only" inside.

The oath of sportsmanship was already underway when I entered. If anyone had doubts that cheerleading was an actual sport, s/he should go to a competition like this to be convinced otherwise. It is not just a sport, but a difficult one at that! After a nationwide elimination search, 13 schools finally made it to the coliseum that day. Young women dressed in their school colors whipped up a storm as they performed their repertoire—they danced, they cheered, they yelled, they flew. And, boy, did they ever fly!

The Sisters of Mary School girls were the daintiest of the bunch, looking very lithe in their elegant costumes. Their 10-minute presentation incorporated rhythmic gymnastics routines, including a swaying stunt (or human pyramid to us noncheerleaders). The result was graceful and unique, but lacked the expected and necessary spunk and punch for a cheering competition.

Assumption College (AC) had good energy, used interesting music like "Moulin Rouge's" "Cancan"

With the economic differences between private and public schools very noticeable, perhaps there should be a budget ceiling for costumes and props to help even the playing field

song and was the only school that had flawless musical segues. It also had the scariest looking spotters and bases—these are the guys who lift and throw the girls into the air. Those guys looked like they were forced-fed steroids and testosterone! Bases get stepped on a lot and have to lift bodies, while spotters have to be quick on their toes to catch falling bodies.

Winners all

The AC girls were my bet for second runner up, but Poveda Learning Center took that one with its sharp and fun choreography as well as clean stunts and great basket tosses (3-4 bases throwing a "flier" into the air).

School of the Holy Spirit was first runner up with its great ability to dance in sync aided by clean and sharp choreography. The girls had the healthiest glow among all the contestants and had an infectious, perky energy. One cheerleader looked like Gabrielle Union from the movie "Bring It On" from certain angles. Her mouth was opened wide in a smile from the moment she stepped on the floor until her team left.

Miriam College delivered on all the criteria used to judge the competition. It showed off its assets with dynamic and creative choreography that incorporated technique and skills. The girls danced in sync and the presentation made good use of everyone on the team—not just highlighting the fliers. They also had a strong background cheering squad that had dynamic choreography as well. All these factors combined to assure them of the grand prize. MC also won for cutest costume although it seemed to me De La Salle Zobel's costumes were cuter, with the nifty stylized letter Z in front.

We've got spirit

Other schools lost points for being unable to make clean stunts. Usually the bases and climbers (the girls on the tippy-top of the stunts) were bunched up together and slow on the lifts. And the dismounts were clumsy and didn't have enough of a snap—some of the

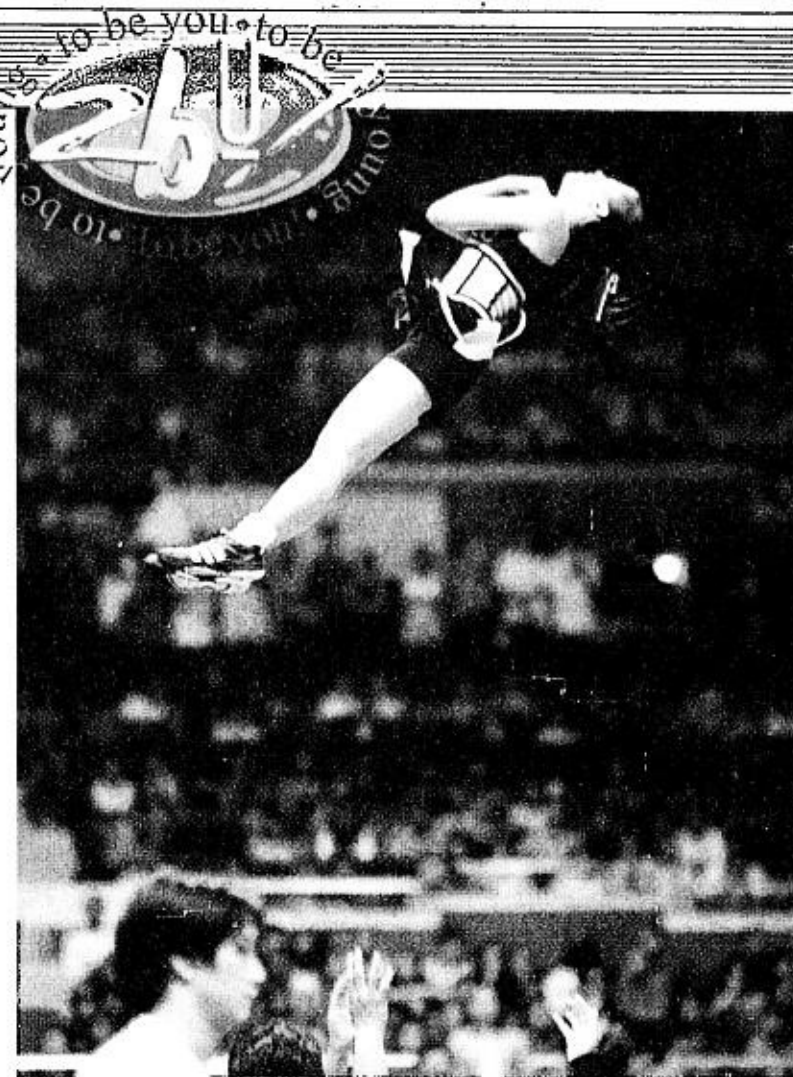


COLEGIO de Sta. Cecilia

more creative dismounts even had girls blowing kisses before falling off the top. Elpidio Quirino High School relied too much on their fliers and climbers (although very impressive) and didn't have enough on choreography.

Colegio de Sta. Cecilia seemed to have too many spotters. This made their climbers seem less able since there were so many people waiting to catch them if they ever fell. But everyone was impressed when the CDSC girls had one leg in the air when their music conked out. And we all know the drill when the music stops: you freeze wherever you are. Troopers that they were, the girls had their legs up there for the longest time and endured it all.

Interesting to note was O.B. Montessori's rotating stunt and Pedro E. Diaz High School's use of Hotdog's (a band from ancient times) "Bongga Ka 'Day'" to end their presentation. Yes to using more original Filipino music next time, please!



POVEDA Learning Center

Overall, the schools gave performances that showed a high level of commitment and effort. The girls performed stunts, twisted their bodies this way and that, fell on occasion but always scrambled back up—all this with a smile permanently attached to their faces! It was remarkable to see climbers dance on top of a base's shoulders or hands like it was the simplest thing in the world to do.

And you have to hand it to those hardy bases who lifted and threw with all their might. It's tough to be in high school, no question. And to have hours and hours worth of practice and pressure added to your list of things to do is no joke.

It was great to see the fantastic support of parents, siblings, schoolmates and friends. Girls usually have to take a back seat to the boys in interschool sports competitions, so this was a great way for them to take centerstage for a change. Having private and public schools on one playing field was also a good idea. However, one can't help but notice the economic differences—materials for costumes, props used and even the physical build of the girls. I don't need to tell you which girls had more energy reserves in their bodies.

Perhaps there should be a budget ceiling for costumes and props next time just to help even the playing field a little bit more. Or maybe they could come up with "public-private sister schools" teams to compete next time. It could help drive home the objective of friendship, exchange of ideas and sharing and all that.

Rah, rah, rah, boom-tidi-bom!

E-mail the author at waltzang@mail.com



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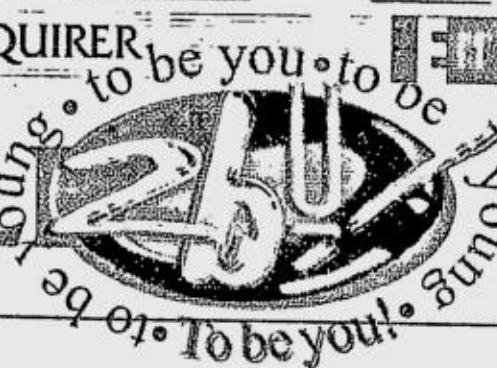
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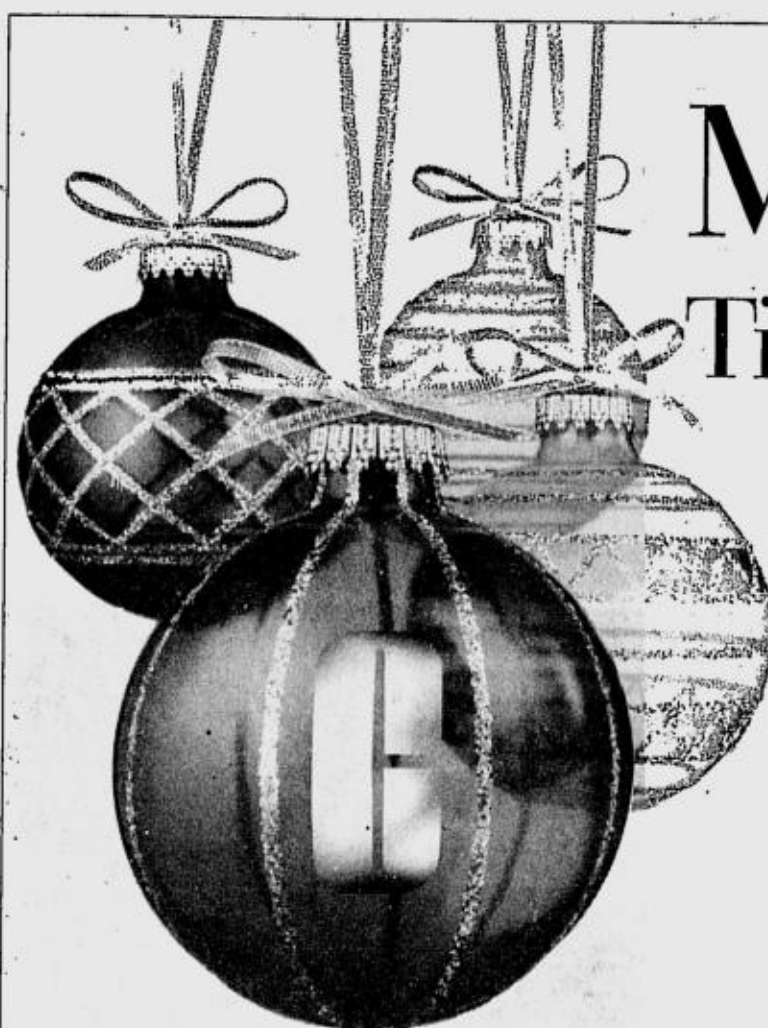
And the winner is . . .

An obsessive-compulsive palms off several uses for the Palm m100

2BU! readers logged on to Pinoyexchange.com to try their luck at winning a Palm m100 from Microwarehouse Inc. They were asked to come up with a list of 100 things they can do with their Palm m100. And the first winner is... hat_trick. Here are excerpts from his list:

1. Further organize my obsessive-compulsive life.
2. Buy a compatible digital camera, MP3 player and keyboard, pair the Palm with my mobile phone and turn my PDA into a full-blown communications tool.
3. Back up all the phone numbers and addresses in my mobile's phone book into my Palm's address book so I won't be devastated if I ever lose my phone again.
4. Back up all the important dates in my mobile phone's calendar into my Palm's date book so as not to miss a really important event or occasion.
5. Make full use of the clock to tell me what time it is if I'm too lazy to lift my arm to look at the time on my wristwatch.
6. Turn it into an alarm clock to wake me from my normal four hours of sleep. It will serve as a back-up to my old pager that I now use as an alarm clock, as well as my mobile phone, audio component and, lest we forget, my old-fashioned bedside alarm clock.
7. Keep my desk clutter-free and environment-friendly by not using Post-It's anymore and just jotting everything down into my Palm's memo pad.
8. Remind myself of urgent undertakings by jotting them down my Palm's to-do list so I won't have to tie a string around my finger anymore to remind me of something.
9. Take notes during a meeting and replace the sound of pages being flipped with the sound of my stylus tap—tapping its way across my Palm's screen as I write the minutes down on my note pad.
10. Justify my excessive use of the Internet by downloading applications for my Palm and turning myself into an efficient, technology-oriented individual.
11. Turn it into my daily newspaper. Too bad there aren't any sleazy tabloid newspapers out there that I can download into my Palm every day.
12. Turn it into a virtual ticker tape so I can monitor the developments of my investments in the stock market—if I won the Virtual Tycoon that is.
13. Turn it into a book. Now my morning commute won't be so boring. But then, I wouldn't be able to sleep in the shuttle anymore.
14. Turn it into a dictionary so I won't run out of highfalutin words during social events.
15. Turn it into a translation dictionary so I can more or less carry a decent conversation with natives in my trips abroad.
16. Turn it into a map. Now I won't be lost whenever I go out of the country.
17. Turn it into a compass so I really won't get lost on my trips abroad.
18. Turn it into a GPS (global positioning system) device so I won't get lost.
19. Use it as a world clock so I can keep track of time in the country I'm in and combat jet lag.
20. Write down the places to see and visit when I go abroad. Everybody knows where the Eiffel Tower is. Bring me to the city's red-light district!
21. Use the calculator on my trips abroad to compute a country's foreign exchange rate and help me keep track of my expenses so I won't go over my budget.
22. Make my weekly shopping list so I won't run out of my favorite deodorant just when I need it the most.
23. Turn it into my own personal accountant and monitor my daily expenditures, especially those that my company could reimburse.
24. Keep track of the people who still owe me money. And the people to whom I still owe money so I'd know who to hide from.
25. Turn it into an extra remote control for my TV. You know how the regular remote almost always gets lost whenever I need it the most.
26. Turn it into one giant and expensive floppy disk as I exchange data between computers with it.
27. View the images and videos I just took with the compatible digital camera I bought and turn it into a digital photo album.
28. Turn it into an expensive digital picture frame by displaying the picture of my significant other on it. Accordion-type picture albums in wallets are so, so '90s!
29. Write down the 100 reasons I'm so into my significant other.
30. Turn it into a giant ID by having my picture displayed on the screen. Now, if only I can find a badge small and thin enough to stick on the inside front cover, then I can always just pull it out and flip it open whenever somebody asks for my identification.
31. Unleash the hidden photographer in me by using it as a depth-of-field calculator. And maybe even take nude snapshots of myself...in the dark...in drag.
32. Pair it with the compatible MP3 player I just bought and listen to my favorite MP3's with it.
33. Keep the workaholic in me busy by letting me read and edit my Word and Excel files on the move. Now I really can't get away from the office anymore.

AND THE WINNER! p.E2



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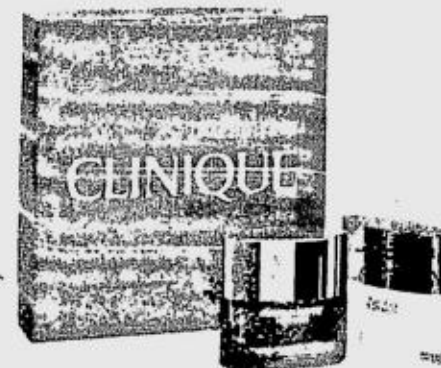
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Enchanted Kingdom



And the winner is . . .

(From page E1)

34. Let it serve as my computer away from my computer by allowing me to print the Word and Excel files in its memory that I just finished editing.

35. Use the compatible keyboard I bought to give my stylus a rest and to give my other fingers a chance to tap away at another handheld device and also give my thumb a much-needed rest before it gets operated on Nov. 7.

36. Buy an add-on that would enable me to connect my Palm to my mobile phone and help me to continue sending (text) messages while my thumb recuperates from its operation.

37. Use the mobile phone add-on to connect to the Internet. I mean, really, you can only get so much information through a WAP-enabled phone and its tiny screen.

38. Turn it into an extension of my mobile phone by creating and storing logos, picture messages, screensavers and ring tones in it so I can swap them on-demand with those stored in my phone. Maybe I can even turn that into a business. Mobile logos and tones on the go!

39. Read or write e-mails that I just didn't find time for while I was in front of my PC.

40. Kill time by playing the games I downloaded into it while I sit in my doctor's waiting room.

41. Track my work-out progress so I don't absent-mindedly work out only one part of my body and end up looking like a javelin thrower in an Asterix comic book.

42. Experiment with what'll happen to my virtual pet if I do certain actions...like never playing with it...ever.

43. Store the URL of my favorite sites on it so I can always check these sites out no matter what computer I'm using.

44. Keep track of my software registrations so I don't have to always look around for the registration certificate if I have to reinstall a program.

45. Keep track of all the maintenance work done on my car to stop myself from second-mechanic.

46. Keep track of all the CDs I have so I won't accidentally buy another copy and blow away 500 bucks in the process.

47. Keep track of all my reading materials; which books I have, which comic books I have to buy, which magazines are coming out next week.

48. Keep track of my favorite cable TV programs. But then, with the exclusion of Star TV programs on my cable service provider, I may hardly need this anymore.

49. Virtually monitor my medicine cabinet so I won't run out of much needed "protection" if the need arises.

50. Since my job sometimes requires me to take measurements like land area and such, I can use my Palm to store data and even compute in both English and metric measurements.

51. Store the recipes of my favorite dishes and drinks and pass myself off as a food and drink connoisseur.

52. Write down the names of the people who gave me a Christmas gift so I can send them a "Thank You" after Christmas.

53. Organize my wardrobe so I don't wear an article of clothing twice in a week.

54. Trace my family tree so I won't be surprised to find out one day that an ex- is a distant cousin of mine.

55. Meet new friends and learn more about my Palm's capabilities by joining PDA-oriented communities like Mapalad.com.

56. Customize it to match my personality by changing its default alarm sounds into more personalized ones, like of me flatulating.

57. Customize it further by changing my Palm's color schemes even if it'll only turn out to be 16 shades of gray.

58. Keep track of all my "alter-nicks" on PinoyExchange and their respective personalities.

59. Cover it with those little black PinoyExchange stickers

and show my love for my favorite online community.

60. Have the perfect alibi as to why I missed an important event by saying that my Palm didn't remind me of it because its batteries ran out.

61. Figure out why its IR port can't communicate with my mobile phone's IR port.

62. Perfect my signature-forgery skills.

63. Use it to shield my face when the police raid the beerhouse I'm in.

64. Pretend it's like the alien motion-sensor-device Sigourney Weaver used in "Aliens" and point it directly toward somebody and shout, "There's that b---h! It's right in front of us!"

65. Download the Bible into my Palm and when I see a person I don't like, hold it up against his/her face and shout, "Behind me, Satan! Behind me!"

66. Download the Bible into my Palm and call it "Superbook: The New Millennium." Now if only I can find myself a wind-up robot and call it Gizmo.

67. Use its backlight in tandem with

my mobile phone's backlight so I won't get lost during power outages.

68. Write down any ideas that suddenly come to mind, like me writing that one great song before I die...or an article of mine that I think the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER might be interested in publishing.

69. Jot down jokes and pick-up lines for future reference as icebreakers.

70. Use it as my sketchpad during boring meetings, seminars and conferences. With a Palm they wouldn't know that I was just doodling away since it looks so professional.

71. As a compact, with the screen acting as a mirror and the stylus as a cleaning tool, and as a high-tech cotton bud of sorts.

72. Donate it as a museum piece in the future together with my leather-bound filofax and have them both displayed side-by-side to show future generations how personal data-keeping progressed from the ancient pen-and-paper technique to the electronic version of the new millennium.

73. Fit it with a scarlet red face-plate and pretend it's a Ferrari Formula 1 car to while away my idle time. And if other Palm m100 users join me, we can mount our own "Formula Palm m100 Grand Prix."

74. Just in case I step out for a while after having made myself a drink, it can act as a cover for my mug to prevent any unwanted objects from swimming or sinking in my drink.

75. Attach Velcro straps on the outside top and bottom, insert my fingers into the straps and turn it into a Palm puppet.

76. As an expensive coaster while using the stylus to stir my drink

77. As a small mouse pad.

78. As a giant, high-tech paper clip.

79. As a big, black money clip that won't fit in my jeans' front pocket.

80. As a fancy and expensive paperweight.

81. As a high-tech Frisbee once it breaks down.

82. As a sun visor when I don't have a pair of sunglasses with me.

83. As a fan when the summer heat wave comes next year.

84. Pierce people's ears with the stylus and teach them a thing or two about pain.

85. As a tool to impress people (and perhaps make some of them eye me with disdain) and to convey some *pogi*-points to the girls by pretending to play with it absent-mindedly in public...and possibly even attract the attention of criminals.

86. As a weapon to throw at the criminal who tries to snatch my mobile phone.

87. Make it a hand-held device in the truest sense of the word when I confront my mobile phone snatcher during which I will pummel him with my Palm (pun intended).

88. Write my name on the screen in big, bold letters, attach an ID lanyard to it and put it around my neck and voila! An instant electronic nametag!

89. Use it to hold an elevator by jamming it between the sliding doors so it won't close on me. It's a lot less painful

than having to extend one of my limbs in between the doors. Plus that way, my shirtsleeves won't get greasy.

97. Show it to Jasper and tell him he can't get an m100 by looking under soda crowns.

98. Post a question to myself: "Should I be glad they weren't raffling off a Palm m505 instead and ask us to post '505 things I can do with a Palm m505'?"

99. Remind myself to seriously reconsider joining another contest like this that seriously drains me of my already depleted brain cells.

100. Remind myself to submit my "100 Things I Can Do With A Palm m100" before Nov. 4.

(Editor's note: Entries #92-95 were deleted due to adult content.)

*Some Palm m100 applications need hardware add-ons and software downloads. For more information, call Microwarehouse at (+632)6370474 - 85 and look for Aya.



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Group climbs every mountain to help

By ANNE LUISA E. VILLARICO
2bU! Correspondent

BEING part of a mountain rescue operation is a formidable task. It could mean being away from your work, your family and putting your own life at risk. Most of all, you do it for free.

But for the 53 Mosart members, there is always a satisfying experience to help other people.

Mosart Philippines has evolved from just a group of backpackers in 1991 to a dedicated search and rescue (SAR) team and promoters of education in outdoor safety. It is the only professional group in the country that specializes in mountain SAR work.

Recognized by the United States Mountain Rescue Association, Mosart grew out of a need to provide the proper response to mountain emer-

gencies. While mountain backpacking was growing fast, there was not a single professional group that was truly competent to handle accidents in the mountains. Many accidents were happening in the mountains in the late '80s and the response was very amateurish.

Mosart can be our own version of Rescue 911 except that it works in the mountains. It responds to mountain search and rescue emergencies. Aside from the training and re-training that members undergo to keep them proficient in actual search and rescue missions, the group also conducts training and seminars for other groups and schools, such as University of Santo Tomas, De la Salle University-College of Saint Benilde and Letran College, to further expand the base of SAR literates in the country.

What makes Mosart distinct from other SAR groups is that most members are volunteers coming from dif-

ferent backgrounds and professions such as sales managers, computer programmers, government employees and even doctors. Their members' ages range from 20 to 52 years.

Jaka rescue

Going to the mountains to rescue people, alive or dead, is no ordinary

hiking trip, especially if you are not familiar with the terrain and the weather is less than ideal.

Among Mosart's well-known operations were the search and rescue of about 33 backpackers and the retrieval of one casualty at Mt. Halcon in 1994, its annual Holy Week Operations at Mt. Banahaw, and the recovery operation in Mt. Lumot/Sumagaya where Cebu Pacific Flight 3887 crashed in 1998.

The organization also conducts missions even in non-mountainous terrain such as responding to flood and typhoon emergencies in Metro Manila.

In all calls for help, Mosart immediately issues a standby callout. Then facts are evaluated so that the proper response can be prepared, including the choice of the right equipment. From experience, Mosart can already sense if a call means a hard mission or just a simple rescue or

recovery.

Among Mosart's SAR mission, the most difficult so far was the Jaka operations, says chair Perry Doroja. It involved a Jaka helicopter that crashed in the virgin forest surrounding the Angat watershed in November 1999.

Together with two other volunteer SAR teams, the Mosart team searched for the site of the wreckage to rescue survivors or retrieve bodies from the crash at the areas surrounding the tunnel. The continuous rains made the ground so muddy that it was difficult to look for a crashed helicopter. The thick clouds covering the forest made it also difficult for the Philippine Air Force to penetrate the area.

The team was divided into small units of six to eight members that took turns going inside the forest because each team that entered the jungle had to stay inside for a week.

The two volunteer teams quit within a day of each other. Only the Mosart team persevered.

Doroja recalls the experience, "The terrain was wet and the ground was very soft. Our feet would sink to the ground, up to the knees..." Doroja says. The Mosart 34-person team could not sleep on the ground but on rope hammocks. "Our feet suffered the most being wet all the time. Grime and dirt were always getting inside our socks and shoes," Doroja adds.

After 16 days, when a chopper finally located the wreckage, the Mosart team helped recover dead bodies, including that of a fatality who was pinned down by the crashed helicopter.

Other obstacles

In its rescue missions, Mosart often have to deal with a lot of difficulties but it considers lack of financial support as the

major obstacle. Being a nonprofit, all-volunteer association, Mosart has to rely on its members for financial support.

"We have to have a good set of equipment to do a good job of search and rescue," Doroja says. He added that many of their equipment, even the correct shoes and clothes, were expensive.

Doroja recalls that when they finished their SAR operations in Mt. Halcon in 1994, he had to call his friends in Manila to meet the team at the port of Calapan and to bring money for the team's ship home. The team did not want to ask the hosts for the money.

Doroja adds that soliciting financial help was very frustrating. "Nobody wants to help because they either do not know us, or because there is very little publicity about mountain SAR work. It is not like donating money for street children, for battered wives or tree planting. SAR work has very little appeal. Even when the SAR work is very difficult and risky, the public hardly shares the drama," he says.

"Perhaps, if the object (of the SAR) is a celebrity, then we can have some publicity. And the sponsors will come running with help and donations," he jokes.

Mosart though prefers help in kind, such as ropes and other rescue equipment, because it is reluctant to hold money from other people. It hopes someday to have regular sponsors.

Mosart members also have to endure pressures from their work and families. Doroja says that when they sent people to do search and rescue work, they could not get them out as quickly as they would want to. He says it was easier to deal with physical hardships and the search but pressures from work and family can be really draining.

"During the Jaka operations, we had three members who were being threatened with dismissal from work if they did not return right away. The wives of two members were threatening to leave if their husbands did not go home immediately," Doroja says.

Becoming a Mosart member

A Mosart team member has to be at least 18 years old and physically and mentally fit. Successful applicants are selected through a long and tough training. The organization is now accepting applications to its Basic Search and Rescue Course (BSARC) Batch 10-2002.

Visit www.mosart.org or call (632) 735-1221 or 735-1222.

E-mail the author at hijax@compuserve.com

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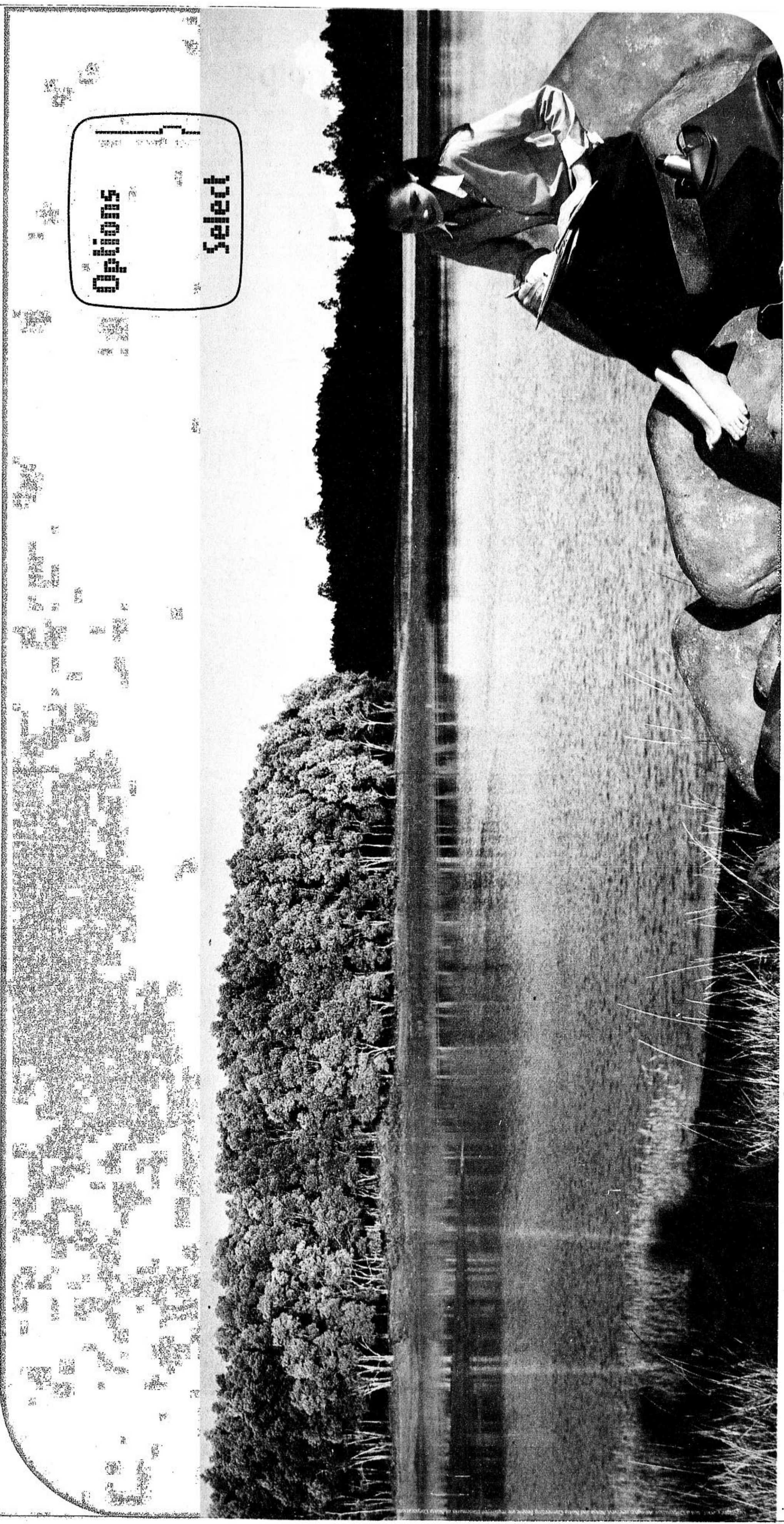


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